Jesus said: "I will never leave you nor forsake you".

GOD HONOURS HIS PROMISES

By

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"Peter, here is an updated list, just off the throne-room computer, the latest group of believers. It will be great to see all these new faces, coming up here to worship and praise with us, when we are off-duty". 113
"Yes, Praise the Lord. It is always great to know that God's work on earth is still going on – that people are spreading the Good News in all sorts of places." Here, give me the list, so I can sort it and add it to the Book". Pause and then: *"Are there any deletions this time"?* 113

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to God Almighty, His Son, Jesus Christ, and the powerful Holy Spirit, who jointly made the Heavens and the Earth, and made mankind as its "guardian steward", to watch over the earth. To that same Godhead, who gave us the Holy Words recorded in the scriptures, authored by more than 40 individuals, but consistent and without contradiction, over a period of several thousand years.

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FOREWORD

Before time existed God was; and after time has been extinguished, God still will be. God spoke, and the Universe was created, light was placed in the firmament. The sun, the moon, and the stars were set in their places, and they obeyed God's word and God's laws, and the universe has not strayed away from those laws since creation began.

God's word and God's laws are so accurate, that we can predict with 100% accuracy when the sun will rise tomorrow.

God created mankind and made him different from all of the other creatures that He had made. God made mankind in his own image, and He gave mankind a soul, and the ability and the power, to choose to follow God's Book of the Law, or to reject it.

This was the basic "Book of the Law" that God Almighty gave to Adam and Eve in the Garden.

1. God told Adam to name all of the animals, birds, and fish. God said that there are too many stars in the heavens, for you to name, so I will name all of the stars and planets myself.
2. The next law that God gave to Adam was that he could eat anything in the Garden of Eden. He was allowed to eat the fruit of the Tree of Life, but he was **forbidden to eat** the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.
3. When Adam deliberately chose to rebel against God's Law and eat this fruit, spiritual death came immediately into his life.
4. God took immediate steps to place angelic guards around the Tree of Life, so that Adam no longer had access to it.
5. Had Adam eaten the fruit from the Tree of Life **AFTER** he had rebelled against God, there would have been no opportunity for redemption; He would forever be living in a sinful world, without any hope of redemption.
6. **But God Almighty had a plan**. The Word of God outlines His plans for the nation of Israel to be an ***"example nation"*** to the whole

world. His plan was "to set them apart" ~~ "to be a holy nation" ~~ "a nation of priests"!

7. **God called them to be a "people" BEFORE they were a "people"**. He changed Jacob's name to **Israel**, and he became the father of twelve tribes, who became **the twelve tribes of Israel.**
8. **Then God had to give "the people of Israel" a "land of Israel".** So he gave instruction to Moses to lead the people of Israel out of captivity in Egypt into the wilderness, to prepare them to become a great nation.
9. **Forty years later, God instructed Joshua to lead the people of Israel into the "Promised Land"**, to the land that he had already promised to their forefather Abraham and the land that God had allowed Moses to see but not to enter, because of his disobedience in the desert. That land became known as Israel. He even defined its physical boundaries.
10. He did not set them above other nations, or beneath other nations. He set them ***"apart"***, to be that ***example for all nations***, to see what happens to a nation when they follow and obey God's laws, or what happens to a nation, when they disobey God's laws.
11. **But Satan also had a plan:** Ishmael also married and had twelve sons, and as was prophesied, there would always be enmity between the sons of Ishmael and the sons of Isaac.
12. **Satan created a counterfeit people, and he said they were the descendants of the Canaanites.** ***This is a lie***! The Canaanites have been extinct for 5,000 years. Satan ~ the father of ALL lies called them "Palestinians".
13. **Then Satan needed to create a land for his people. That land he calls Palestine!** That land never existed in history, nor do the people who claimed to be Palestinians. This is part of the illusion, the deception, the lies that Satan is using the deceive millions of people around the world, and to take glory away from God's plan for His chosen people.
14. **This is why there is so much anti-Semitism in the world today!** Satan is aware that his time is short and he wants to deceive as many people as possible, and lead them away from the truth of God's word.
15. *People in the world today must be aware of what is really happening and going on around them, and that the media is being used as puppets, to put forward Satan's plans ~~ not God's plans.*
16. So let us read on and see if we can learn from God's wisdom, and the lessons for the "example nation" ~~ Israel, when they obeyed God's Laws, and what happened to them when they did not obey.
17. It is said that the Old Testament is a shaded picture of what is to happen in the New Testament.
18. God makes promises in words, deeds, or prophecies, and then fulfils them. Some have been made and fulfilled already in the Old Testament; others have been made in the Old Testament and fulfilled

in the lives of the Disciples and the early first century church, *while others are still yet to be fulfilled*.

19. However if you don't study and meditate on the shady picture, you will never recognise the real picture when it appears. Selah! Stop! Pause! And think about that!

OUR GOD IS A GOD OF PROMISES

If you do a search in a Strong's Concordance you will get the following results;

"Promise" is mentioned 53 times in scripture

"Promised" is mentioned 49 times in scripture

"Promisedst" is mentioned 3 times in scripture

"Promises" is mentioned 13 times in scripture

"Promising" is mentioned once in scripture.

But if you study the scriptures, you will see that there are many places where God Almighty makes a "promise" by making a statement, but the word promise is not mentioned.

The scriptures made about sending a Messiah in the Book of Isaiah, for example is one of them. One must understand that a "Prophecy" is in fact a "Promise" about an event recorded in history, BEFORE it actually takes place.

As I have stated earlier, if you do not study the scriptures, you will never know when a promise is made, or when it is fulfilled.

All throughout the scriptures, God Almighty makes promises, and then He honors all of the promises that He has made.

God called Israel His people, even before they were "a people", and then He promised them land through His promise to Abraham. The "Promised Land" was given biblical borders, as defined to Moses and Joshua, and it became "the land of Israel".

It is said that the Old Testament is a shady picture of what we will see in the New Testament, so let us look at the life of Jacob, the son of Isaac and Rebecca.

Remember that Ishmael was the first son of Abraham, to Hagar, the Egyptian maid-servant of Sarah. Then God promised Abraham that he would have an heir from Sarah, who was in her old age, and Isaac was born.

God chose Jacob (the second son born of twins) over Esau, the first-born son, and Esau was to become Jacob's servant.

In the New Testament it says that the last shall be first and the first shall be last. God shows that through His divine plans and purposes, He can change the line of inheritance from the first son to whoever He chooses. He can even change the line of inheritance of all of the priests of Israel.

In the two cases mentioned above, God chose the second son to inherit, instead of the first son. But then God changes course and chooses Joseph over all of the other sons to become the leader and Governor in Egypt.

As a boy, Joseph was greatly loved by his father and was given a robe of many colours. This was a symbol of royal authority, and a special coat like this was kept in each rich man's household, just in case a high ranking official arrived at their house.

This symbolised that Joseph would have authority over his brothers and would receive the inheritance over his brothers.

When Jesus ascended back into Heaven He was seated at the right hand of God the Father. (He was second in charge.) Then the Father gave all authority in heaven and on the earth to Jesus. [Matthew 28:18]

When Joseph was a young boy, the Holy Spirit came upon him and he had dreams and visions. In one of these visions, He saw his brothers' sheaves of wheat bowing down to His sheaf of wheat. This dream was a two-pronged prophecy. It had an immediate response and a later response.

The immediate response was when Joseph had been promoted to become second in charge of all of Egypt, and his brothers came and knelt before him, requesting food and grain ~ as there was none in Israel.

The second is in the New Testament, when "every knee shall bow and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord."

Joseph was hated by his brothers and they plotted to kill him. Jesus was hated by the Jewish leaders and they plotted to kill him.

Joseph was thrown in a pit and then sent into slavery. He was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife of molestation and sentenced to prison.

But all through this series of trials and tribulations, Joseph did not lose faith in His God and as a result, God raised him up to the highest levels of authority in Egypt and he became the father of the nation of Israel.

It was prophesied that the descendants of Joseph would multiply and after 400 years they would be set free and travel to the "Promised Land".

The Jews spent 400 years in Egypt, (just as prophesied) and then God sent a deliverer (Moses) to perform ten miracles before Pharaoh, to persuade him to "let my people go". After spending 7 years performing these 10 miracles the Pharaoh finally agreed and they fled across the Red Sea, on dry land, to go into the wilderness to prepare to enter the Promised Land.

They were disobedient and a journey of 11 days actually took 40 years, but even thought they were disobedient, God still honoured His promise to His people.

RESTORING ISRAEL'S BIBLICAL BORDERS

In Genesis 15:18 and in Genesis 17:8, God Almighty gives the boundaries for the Nation of Israel, known as **"The Promised Land"**.

Because of their disobedience to God's Laws, over time, these boundaries have been significantly reduced, as neighbouring countries have stolen land, and now even complete nations are established and dwelling within the "original" Biblical Borders of the Promised Land of Israel.

The borders referred to are:

1. **Dan:** is described in the bible as the northern-most city of the kingdom of Israel.
2. **Be'er Sheva:** is described in the bible as the southern-most city settled by the Israelites. Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov (Abraham , Isaac, and Jacob) all spent time in Be'er Sheva.
3. **The River Nile:** is Egypt's primary source of water. At the beginning of the Israelites' slavery in Egypt, Pharaoh commanded that all baby boys born to the Israelites be thrown into the Nile. [Exodus 1:22]
   a. Baby Moshe (Moses) was placed in the Nile [Exodus 2:3] and drawn from the Nile [Exodus 2:5] when he could no longer be hidden from the Egyptians.
   b. The first two plagues of God brought upon the Egyptians also began in the Nile [Exodus 7:14-24] and [Exodus 7:26 – 8:11].
4. **The Euphrates River:** Is the longest river in Western Asia, and is one of the two defining rivers of Mesopotamia. According to the bible, the Euphrates River was one of the four rivers, whose source was a river flowing from the Garden of Eden. [Genesis 2:14].

The Biblical Borders of Israel,
Overlayed on the existing map of this area today.

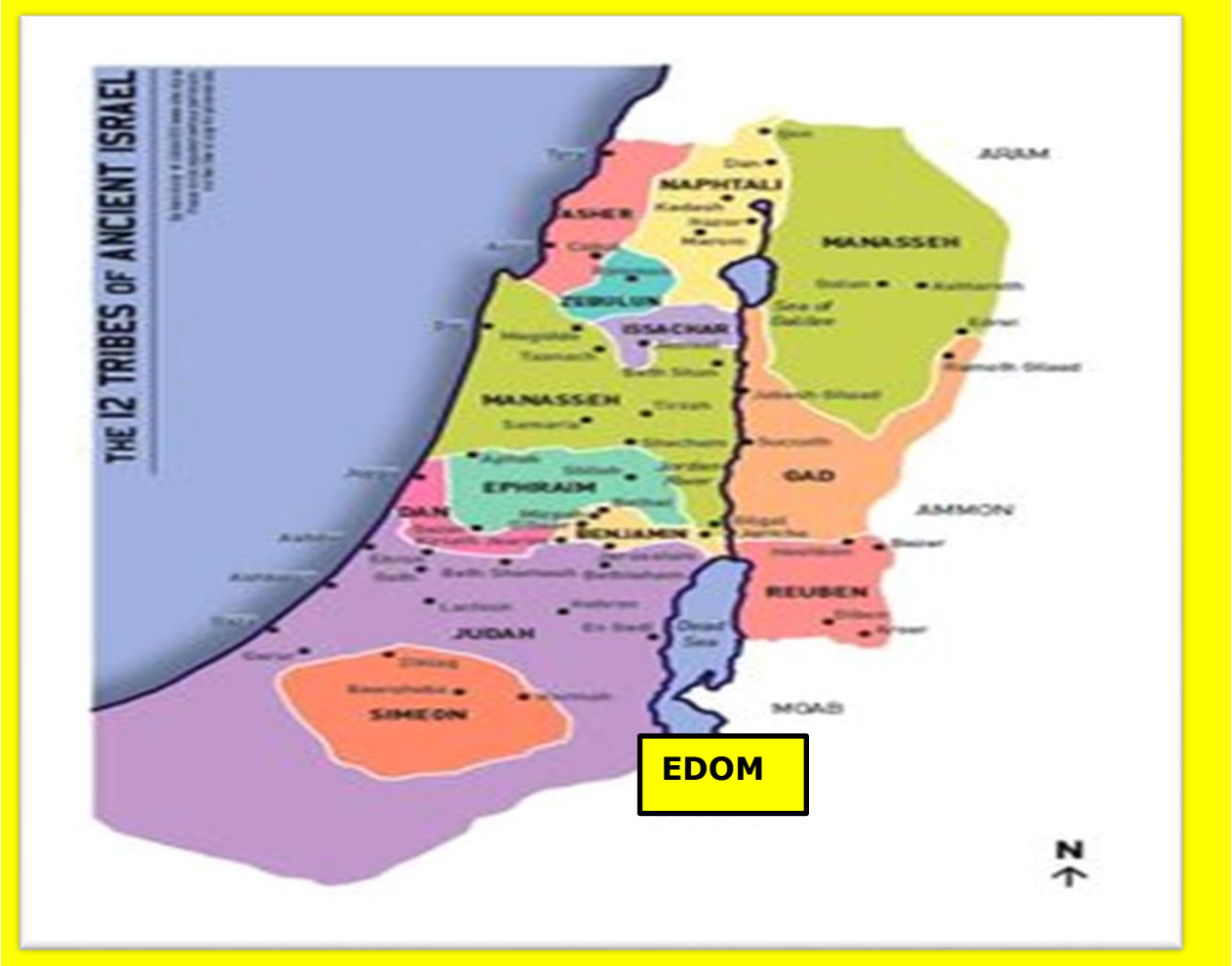
Notice that ***all of Jordan* and parts of *Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia***, are included inside the Biblical borders of Israel.

In the Book of Ezekiel chapters 35 & 36, God Almighty tells the Prophet that he has not forgotten His "promises to Abraham", and that He will ***"destroy the nations who attacked Israel and stole their land"***.

These nations are all destined to be completely destroyed and their cities left as rubble, whilst the Nation of Israel will expand, and the land will be turned from desert into a beautiful orchard, with a bountiful harvest.

However, there is within these 2 chapters a warning for all of the nations upon the earth. ***Any nation which mocks Israel, or aids a nation which mocks Israel, shall be severely dealt with by the Lord.***

So let us look at these subject chapters in detail. The next picture shows the 12 Tribes of Israel and their boundaries.



Ezekiel chapter 35 says: Again a message from the Lord, He said: *Son of Dust, face toward Mount Seir and prophecy against the people saying: "The Lord God says: I am against you and I will smash you with my fist and utterly destroy you. Because you hate my people Israel, I will demolish your cities and make you desolate, and then you shall know that I AM the Lord.*

You butchered my people when they were helpless, when I had punished them for all their sins. As I live, the Lord God says, since you enjoy blood so much, I will give you a blood bath ~ ***your turn has come!***

I will utterly wipe out the people of Mount Seir, killing off those who try to escape and all those who return. I will fill your mountains with your dead ~ your hills, your valleys, and your rivers will be filled with those that the sword has killed. Never again will you revive. You will be abandoned forever; your cities will never be rebuilt. Then you will know that I AM the Lord. For you said, 'Both Israel and Judah shall be mine. We will take possession of them. ***What do we care that God is there!"***

Therefore, as I live, the Lord God says, I will pay back your angry deeds with mine. I will punish you for all of your acts of envy and of hate. And I will honour my name in Israel by what I do to you. And you shall know that I have heard each evil word you spoke against the Lord saying, His people are helpless; they are food for us to eat; saying that you boasted great words against the Lord. And I have heard them all. The whole world will rejoice when I make you desolate. You rejoiced at Israel's fearful fate. Now I will rejoice at yours! You will be wiped out, O people of Mount Seir and all who live in Edom! And then you will know that I AM the Lord![1]

Then in Ezekiel chapter 36: Son of Dust, prophecy to Israel's mountains, tell them: Listen to this message from the Lord. *"Your enemies have sneered at you and claimed your ancient heights as theirs, and destroyed you on every side and sent you away as slaves to many lands. You are mocked and slandered. Therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord He says to the hills and mountains, dales and valleys, and to the ruined farms and the long-deserted cities, destroyed and mocked by heathen nations all around. My anger is afire against these nations, especially Edom, for grabbing my land with relish, in utter contempt for me, to take it for themselves.*

Therefore, prophecy and say to the hills and the mountains, dales and valleys of Israel; The Lord God says: *I am full of fury because you suffered shame before these surrounding nations. Therefore, I have sworn with hand held high, that those nations are going to have their turn being covered with shame, but for Israel, good times will return. There will be heavy crops of fruit to prepare for my people's return ~~ and they shall be coming home again.*

[Have you thought why the terrorists are targeting the crops of Israel with firebombs? The terrorists have read these scriptures, and they know that God's promises are about to come to pass. God is about to reclaim the borders of Israel and this land and food will be there for all of the Jews who will be returning to Israel from all the nations of the earth.]

[1] This is a warning for present day Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

See, I am for you, and I will come and help you as you prepare the ground and sow your crops. I will greatly increase your population throughout all Israel, and the ruined cities will be rebuilt and filled with people. Not only the people, but the flocks and the herds will also greatly multiply. O mountains of Israel, again you will be filled with homes. I will even do more for you than I did before. Then you will know that I AM the Lord. My people will walk upon you once again, and you will belong to them again; and you will no longer be a place for burning their children on idol altars[2].

In these two chapters God lays out His future plans for the punishment of Israel for their disobedience to His laws, and then the punishment of all of the nations who took advantage of Israel in their times of distress.

"As in the Days of Noah," the prophet cried out God's warning to the nations of God's impending judgements; but nobody listened and complete destruction came upon the nations and they were all wiped out.

And so it is that we have been given these warnings, ***for all of the nations upon the earth***. If we have ridiculed Israel, if we have supported nations who have stolen land from the "God-defined borders of the Nation of Israel," then we will also be held accountable before God for this sin, and punishment will come, unless we repent, as a nation before God. God Almighty gives warnings through the prophets and then His mercy stops and judgement starts.

WW III is about to start, with the destruction of the nations around Israel. The wars identified in the Book of Daniel will follow, with literally millions losing their lives, and destruction of 1/3rd of the world's forests by fire. **The "beginning of the end of the age of the Gentiles" is just about to start.**

Nations should never ever show contempt for God Almighty, because He remembers all things and punishes all sins that nations do, unless they repent for these sins ~ as a nation!]

Unfortunately, here in Australia, we have yet to do this act of repentance as a Nation in our National Parliament. The devastating bushfires that we have had in the last 2 months here in Australia, with more than 12 million hectares destroyed, are just a small sample of what is to come upon us as nations, who have failed to repent before God.

In these two chapters, God promises that the desert lands in Israel will be transformed to become great harvest fields. This is actually taking place right now, as these pictures taken in 1995 shows. Much more has happened since that time, when I was in Israel and took these pictures in and around the Ben Gurion Water Research Institute in Southern Israel.

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[2] This is a welcomed Promise for Israel and for the People who are returning to Israel from countries all over the world ~ which was also promised.

Newly planted date plantation

Orchard irrigated with salty water

From desert to harvest

Irrigated with salty water.

Growing grapes like apples

New Olive orchards

God is honouring his promises and making the deserts bloom again. This is prophecy being fulfilled right before our very eyes, but hardly anyone in the

western world is concerned about it ~ but they should be rejoicing, to see God honour another of His promises to His people.

So, they say that some people don't even believe something, even when they see it. This is also true with people reading scripture as well.

It was reported that more than 500 men saw Jesus walking around in Israel for 10 days after his resurrection and He told them to all wait in Jerusalem until the promise from the Father comes. [The Holy Spirit]

Despite actually seeing Jesus walking around, they still refused to obey him and to remain in Jerusalem for a further 40 days. Acts chapter 2 recounts that there were only 120 people waiting in the upper room, to receive the promise from the Father.

All 500 people could have received the Holy Spirit that day, but unfortunately, 380 people went home, in complete disobedience to the instructions of Jesus, and missed out on the promised blessing from God the Father.

In like manner, people in Israel are seeing what God is doing, but they don't recognise that it is the Messiah that is doing it. They think this is all a result of their hard work.

Likewise, we have nations from all around the world, who refuse to recognise that Jerusalem is the capital city of Israel. Neither will they move their national embassies to Jerusalem.

In 2017, the USA caught up with prophecy and moved their embassy to Jerusalem, and fulfilled the prophecy which occurred when King David captured Salem and renamed it Jer**usa**lem. If you look carefully, you will see that the USA has always been "in the centre of Jer**usa**lem" for more than 3,000 years.

Australia said that they would move their embassy to Jerusalem, but so far it has only been words. ***We are to be doers of God's word ~~ not just hearers, or speakers of God's word ~~ if we want to receive God's blessings ~~ as a nation!***

407 YEARS AND THEN THE PROMISE

In the Book of Genesis we have the story of Joseph, how He was chosen by God as a special person, kidnapped by his own brothers, and sold into slavery. But what they set out to be as evil, God turned around and made it for good.

Joseph was able to interpret the dreams of the Pharaoh, and to prepare Egypt for the droughts that were coming to all of the lands in the Middle East.

After Joseph died, it was prophesied that the Jews would have to remain in Egypt for 400 hundred years, until God sent them a Deliverer.

God appeared to Moses as a "light" inside a burning bush, and commanded him to go back to Egypt, and to tell the Pharaoh to "Let my people go, to go and to worship me in the desert".

We all know the story, Pharaoh refused, so Moses was told by God to perform miracles, to convince Pharaoh to "Let My people go".

Now, all the visits to Pharaoh did not all occur in one week, or even one year. It took seven years before the last miracle took place and Pharaoh finally agreed to "Let my people go'". The Jews were in Egypt for a total of 407 years before God's promise of a Deliverer was fulfilled.

Jesus came in the flesh and dwelt among us. He became part of us when we accepted Him as our personal Saviour. Because Jesus lives in us, and the Holy Spirit empowers us, we (individually and corporately) have become living stones, a part of the Body of Jesus Christ. We have become the flesh that Jesus has come to dwell amongst, in fact, to dwell inside of. Therefore, we are a part of the Body of Christ, in the flesh, living here in Toowoomba, in Queensland, Australia.

I want you to think very carefully about what I have just said. Jesus came in the flesh to be an example for all mankind.

He took the five loaves and the two fishes, and multiplied them to feed 5,000 people, and He has taken our flesh and multiplied it, so that we live all over the world, at the same time, to perform whatever He commands us to do, collectively and/or individually.

Jesus even prophesied about this before He ascended into heaven. He told His disciples *"that greater things shall they do because He goes to be with His Father"*.

When Jesus lived upon the earth He could only be in one place at one time. He could only perform miracles, at one place, at one time.

Now that He has multiplied Himself inside of us, and given us the Holy Spirit's power, we are now able to be His witnesses, His ambassadors, and His miracle workers, wherever we live, at any time the Lord commands us. That is why the Apostles stated: Jesus in us is the hope of His glory.

We are the glory of Jesus made manifest on the earth, living a spiritual godly life, in an ungodly world. We live in this world, but we are not part of this world.

Our spirit-man, which was dead when we were unbelievers, is now alive once again. Our spirit now is directly connected to God, by the Holy Spirit that lives and dwells inside of us.

As Jesus communed with His Father, so we are able to commune with the Father, because we abide in Jesus and Jesus abides in the Father. Jesus said this in John chapter 17, but that is a later topic for discussion.

NOW ANOTHER LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY.

On Pentecost Sunday, May, 1606, Captain Ferdinand De Quiroz, proclaimed that all the islands south of Vanuatu were to be claimed for Jesus Christ, not for any earthly king. He further proclaimed that these lands would be forever known as the ***Great Southland(s) of the Holy Spirit***.

On the 31st December 2014, **it is the end of the 407th year**, since this proclamation was given. This is a very historic occasion.

As we move into the year 2015, Australia is now poised to move into the promises, the prophecies, and the millions of prayers which have been prayed all over the world for this nation.

Today, as the Body of Christ in Toowoomba, we must be ever sensitive to the leading, and the calling of the Holy Spirit, as God now sets in motion the plans and the purposes He has already ordained for each one of us.

John 15:16 states that we did not choose Jesus, He chose us (before the world began) and He has called each one of us by name, according to His divine plan and purpose, for each of us, and collectively, for His divine plan and purpose for Toowoomba.

Today, let us rejoice that Jesus came to earth and that He now lives inside of you and me, and we live with the Father in heavenly places, in our spiritual form, but here on earth in our bodily form.

Today, let us rejoice that Jesus came as Emmanuel, (God with us) that God came in the flesh, to live and dwell in us for eternity.

As we move into 2015, let us do it with clarity, knowing that we are called by God for a divine purpose, that we are called to fulfil His divine plan for this city, state and nation.

As Joseph, Moses, David and Solomon went about their tasks with reverential fear of the Lord, so let us go forward, knowing in our hearts, that the power and the might of the Holy Spirit, is living and dwelling inside each of us.

Therefore, we should not be afraid, nor dismayed, when we are prompted by the Holy Spirit to do something, which may seem way out in "left field".

It is only out in "Left field" because we cannot see the whole picture. Be rest-assured that Jesus is in control, that He can see the whole picture, because He knows the end from the beginning, and He designed the picture in the first place.

The word tells us that we are all called to be labourers in the harvest field, but although many are available and are called, only a few decide to obey God's word, and are chosen for the task.

Last year (2014), a call went out to the whole congregation, to take pieces of cloth and to make designs upon them, to be made into a tapestry, to be placed upon the wall, as a witness to future generations.

None of us knew what the final picture would look like, until all the pieces were gathered up and arranged into what we see on the wall today, a mighty witness to future generations.

So it is with the picture and the plan that Jesus has for Toowoomba, this state and for this nation. At the moment we know we have been called, that God has a plan, and we are waiting expectantly to become the "true light" in Toowoomba, putting this plan into action.

Like the psalmist says, let our witness in this city be a witness for future generations, as we proclaim the name of Jesus Christ, and we proudly let His true light shine in and through us.

THE PROPHET'S REWARD

In Matthew 10:38-42, Jesus is speaking and it says;

*He that loves his father or mother more than me **is not worthy of me**: and he that loves his son or daughter more than me, **is not worthy of me**. And he that takes not his cross, and follows after me, **is not worthy of me**.*

He that finds his life shall lose it: and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it.

He that receives you receives me, and he that receives me receives him that sent me. He that receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward, and he that receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones, a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

In these series of scriptures Jesus sets out some revelations that the Body of Christ in many cases, still have not put into practise today. Unfortunately, this is a sad state of affairs.

"If you receive a prophet, in the name of a prophet you will receive a prophet's reward".

But what is a prophet's reward?

1. **They will always receive a word which lines up with the Word of God.**
   a. That is why Paul challenged Christians to carefully check the words you receive, to make sure that they line up with the Word of God.
   b. Paul even went further to tell the disciples that even if angels come to you and starts to teach you anything which does not line up with the Word of God, then you must refuse to accept it.
   c. In the church today, there are many who are coming and preaching and teaching things which don't line up with the Word of God – so beware of them!

2. **They will always receive an impartation from God – equipping you "TO DO the work of the ministry".**
   a. The "Work of the Ministry" is not just restricted to Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, Pastors and Evangelists.
   b. In 2 Corinthians 3:6 Paul writes: Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life. But if the ministration of death, written *and* engraved in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which *glory* was to be done away: Shall not the ministration of the spirit be more glorious?
   c. In Romans 8:28 it says: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.
   d. Each and every person who has been saved by the grace and mercy of God should love God. But the verse does not stop there – it goes on.
   e. God calls each of us by name and according to His divine purposes for us. All of us are small fragments (jigsaw puzzle pieces) in the might and majesty of the picture that God has for you, for your church, for your city and for your nation.
   f. Each of us is called to do **"the work of the ministry".**
3. **Test All Things**
   a. Paul reminds us to check all prophecy to make sure that it lines up with the Word of God.
   b. Don't go ahead and "try to make the prophecy happen".
   c. Prophecy can be for NOW, or for a future time.
   d. Prophecy can be a directive.
   e. Prophecy must not cause confusion in your life.
   f. Prophecy must not make YOU feel condemned
   g. Prophecy is to edify, exhort and/or comfort the Body of Christ
   h. Prophecy must not manipulate you, or control you
   i. Prophecy will manifest the Fruit of the Spirit in your life
   j. All the 5-fold ministries of God, as described in Ephesians 4:11 must be anointed. If you are not called to an office, don't attempt to operate in it; otherwise you will cause damage to yourself and to others around you.
   k. Before you are called to an office there is a process. Joseph was highly favoured. There were 5 coats of Joseph's life which he had to wear before He became the Governor of Egypt.
      a. It was a process that he had to go through before he reached the position revealed in his dreams where he would wear the royal cloak and his brothers would bow down to him. The prophecies and

dreams he received were prophetic. God revealed THE END to him, RIGHT AT THE VERY BEGINNING.

b. God did not reveal the betrayal of his brothers, or the lies of Potiphar's wife, nor the 13 years in prison.

c. God did not reveal that his garments would be changed from prison garb to royal robes all in one day; but that is what actually happened.

l. If you are highly favoured, it allows you to receive a direct word – a direct revelation from God.

m. Prophecy begins a process, which leads to faith (in the process), which brings results.

n. Prophecy brings truth in the process, which is always confirmed by the Word of God.

o. In the book of Acts, we have the story of Paul and Silas and the slave girl who was suffering from the spirit of divination (telling fortunes). This slave girl was making big bucks for her employers. They were not happy when Paul intervened.

p. She was able to correctly identify who Paul and Silas were: "people of the Most High God". In fact the wrong spirit within her was actually telling the truth. Be careful! Satan sometimes uses the truth of God's word to set people up for a fall.

q. Paul & Silas commanded the wrong spirit to come out of her and it obeyed their command, because they were using the authority of God's word.

r. Don't be surprised, we still have them around us here in Australia today.

s. How we react to them as Christians today, will either give glory and honour to Jesus Christ, or bring shame to us.

t. The word clearly says that we have been given spiritual authority to deal with the principalities and powers of this world.

u. In Mark 16:15-18 Jesus is speaking and He says these words: *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

v. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

i. We have been given the authority to deal with these problems which we see all around us.

ii. If we do this, Jesus has promised that these will be the signs (for the unbeliever) – to get their attention to the things of God and to bring them to the foot of the cross.

w. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Fruit of the Holy Spirit will flow together, to provide the correct timing and situations, to allow you to witness for Jesus in every situation. You will also receive the boldness to do this.

x. The Holy Spirit can position you in time and at the correct place to witness to a specific person. Cornelius needed to be witnessed to; God sent the Holy Spirit to Peter and told Him He was sending messengers to him and to go with them without question. When he arrived at Cornelius' household the Holy Spirit open his mind to understand that God wanted to bring him into the kingdom, even though he was a Gentile. This was a revelation for Peter and as a result, Cornelius and his whole household gave their lives to Christ.

y. There can be two (2) types of witness by the Holy Spirit:

   i. The sins in our life are revealed and we are convicted to make things right with God, by repentance. This frees up our spirits to be able to receive direction from God.

   ii. We have a burden in our spirits to do something for someone, but are not sure what that "something" is. When we recognise this burden and pray for that person by praying in tongues, we know that the prayer is righteous, the prayer is correct and the prayer is directed in the spirit realm to the specific burden that the Holy Spirit has put upon your heart.

   iii. In both these cases mentioned above, the emphasis is upon "Obedience". We must be prepared to become obedient to the call of the Holy Spirit upon our lives to see positive results.

   iv. In the case of Apostle Peter, obedience to go with the messengers resulted in salvation for a whole household.

4. Prophecy prepares us for Spiritual warfare.

This is a subject in itself, which maybe can be taught at a later stage. This requires a higher level of spiritual maturity and understanding of the concepts of the way the Holy Spirit lives, dwells and works within us, to achieve the calling upon our lives that God has placed within us.

5. Mark 4:14: The Parable of the Sower

a. Prophecy sows a seed into your heart – the Word of God.

b. The devil will try to steal the seed from you (the Word of God) so it cannot grow and bear fruit.

c. If you resist the devil he will flee from you: and you will see the seed grow and the prophecy come to pass.

d. When the seed is planted by the wayside: It is planted in the wrong place – or the wrong heart attitude. Therefore if it grows it will become stunted and not bring forth a perfect fruit and bountiful harvest.

e. Verse 16: Stony Ground: The Word is received with joy, but the environment is not prepared to receive the Word, for it to grow (one becomes persecuted for the Word's sake.)

Make sure that you work all prophecy through with a spiritual leader, to make sure that you understand it (fully) otherwise it may cause you to become "offended".

"Strange" methods come from "strange" vessels. We must discern what is being said, but also the way they are being delivered.

6. When you receive a prophecy, you must obey the Word.

a. Elijah prayed that it would not rain for 3½ years – and it did not rain!

b. He then prayed again, and that rain obeyed his commands.

c. God expects us to work with Him to see the prophecy come to pass, in His perfect timing.

7. In 1 Timothy 1:18, Apostle Paul charges (commands) Timothy to stir up the spiritual gifts, which were previously prophesied over him by the laying on of hands.

a. Paul commanded Timothy to build up his faith and wage warfare to see these prophecies come to pass in his life.

b. Spiritual "shipwrecks" can occur if you don't follow through with spiritual warfare, and exercise your faith (sowing "obedient seed") to see these prophecies come to pass.

8. What has been happening in the Prophetic?

a. When God does something He always does it perfectly!

b. Satan tries to divert it by rising up an "anti-movement" to resist and divert any "movement of God".

9. 1 Kings 17:1: Story of Elijah's "public" ministry and his "private" ministry.

a. To do the "public ministry for the Lord" you must have your "private ministry to the Lord" going so well in the spirit realm that God can trust you enough to give you a "man authority" to do supernatural things.

b. When God told Elijah to go to the Brook Cherith, this was a time of further prophecy responsibilities, before the next public ministry.

c. Elijah had to have enough faith to believe God when He said that a raven would feed him meat and bread each morning and evening.

d. If you have ever seen ravens fight over food, then you would understand that this was a mighty test of faith for Elijah.

10. Two (2) Schools of the Prophet.

a. School of Obedience: pretty small to start with, to teach you to get ready to do something greater.

b. School of Faith: If you cannot get your faith right in your "private ministry to the Lord", then you cannot be elevated to the next level of "public ministry".

11. **Insecurity: is a thing which must be dealt with, so that we learn to trust God in ALL things and in ALL situations ~~ even without thinking about our own safety.**

12. **The "Prophetic Movement"** has been in hiding so that God can prepare the people ready to do His will: **WITHOUT ANY PRE-CONDITIONS.**

    a. People do not understand the sacrifice and the costs which have to be done by people before He can raise them up.

    b. 1 Kings 18: Obadiah – feared the Lord greatly and fed the 100 prophets. He was the "007 of God".

    c. The Spirit of Jezebel will oppose the true voice of God, by killing the true prophets of God.

    d. The Spirit of Jezebel reduces the influences of the "true prophetic" move of God.

    e. *The true prophets of God must rise up and fight for God's Word and for God's purposes.* God is waiting for people to rise up and take on the spirit of Jezebel.

    f. **<u>There are NO "self-appointed" prophets!</u>**

        i. 1 Corinthians 12:28 says; these "God Appoints", and "God Anoints", "God Prepares", and "God Protects" His prophets – **<u>not MAN!</u>**

        ii. God appoints First: Apostles, then Second: Prophets, then Third: Teachers, after that order, Working of Miracles, then Gifts of healings, Gift of Helps, which undergirds the miracles and healings.

        iii. The Worship team is an important "helps" ministry, so that these ministries can flow in a meeting.

        iv. <u>"Self-Appointed Ministries"</u> can cause a restriction in the flow of God.

    g. <u>God calls and establishes God's appointments in place</u> before the work can start.

    h. Unfortunately, people don't trust leaders in the church today. (*Angelos: messengers who are liars)*

    i. Revelation 2:1: True elders: must have a "heart of God", for the church, a "heart of God" for the people and must be able to use the gift of discernment.

    j. Revelation 2:18 Letter to the Church of Thyatira: Nevertheless, you have allowed that woman "Herself – the Jezebel spirit"

        i. Now the Jezebel spirit is not a woman, but a powerful demonic spirit which in this case has taken over the mind & body of a woman. The leadership in this Church, has allowed this woman to appoint herself as a prophet and she has been leading the

people astray by her wrong prophecies, which did not conform to the Word of God, nor did it give Him glory.

ii. This was an "ungodly influence" among "Godly people" and therefore the Holy Spirit gave the command that this woman must be removed – to protect the remainder of the saints.

iii. This resulted in a "fragmentation" within the Body of Christ, with broken networks and relationships.

k. You "belong" to the church, because all born again believers are part of the Body of Christ. That is the qualification for you to "belong" to a church. There is no scriptural basis for people "joining" a church to become "members" – like joining a football club, or any other "social club".

l. The secret of power is the connection between God's leaders. If there is no connection or relationship between leaders within the Body of Christ there can be no unity, hence no power and no blessings:

i. When there was unity in the Body of Christ in the first generation church, the very foundations of the buildings in which they were worshipping began to shake. Have you been in one of those types of church meetings lately?

ii. Where there is unity, God commands a blessing!

iii. We have the same Holy Spirit living on the inside of us that raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

iv. Therefore in this 21st century, we have the same opportunity and right to have close relationships between the leaders, as well as between the saints in the Body of Christ.

v. We have the same right to seeing miracles, signs and wonders occurring in our midst, just like it is recorded in the Book of Acts and some of Pauls' Epistles.

13. The Challenge for the 21st Century Church: is to get back to the basics of the Word of God.

a. If it is recorded in the Bible, I believe it. Maybe I don't understand all of it, but the scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth (on a "need to know" basis).

b. This does not mean that overnight we will understand the whole Bible. No! it means that as we come to different situations and/or levels of spiritual development, the Holy Spirit will reveal to us the truths from the Word that we need to progress to the next spiritual level.

c. That is why private study of the scriptures every day is so important to develop and grow into the maturity of the Word that Christ wants all of us to achieve.

So the challenge of this teaching is this: What are you prepared to do for Jesus Christ, to get the Body of Christ following and being obedient to the Word of God AGAIN?

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 4

Apostle Paul starts the chapter with the word **"Therefore"** ~~(meaning "in conclusion"), which means you need to go back and read what Apostle Paul has written in the previous chapter, which has the heading ***"The Role of the Church".***

Verse 1; Paul requests, in fact pleads, that each person *walks worthy in the vocation that God has called you into*. To be able to do that, one must first know, with 100% certainty, *to what vocation each individual person has been called*, because Romans 8:28 stays that "*All things work together for good, for those who love God, for those who are called according to His "divine plan" and His "divine purpose".*

Verse 2; then indicates "how we are to fulfil our calling"; with all lowliness and meekness of heart, with long suffering, forbearing one another ***(putting up with one another)***. All of this has to be done ***"in love"***.

Verse 3; for what purpose are we to do this? Endeavouring to keep ***"the unity of the Spirit"*** ~~ **in the "bond of peace"**.

Verse 4; Paul once again goes back to his theme, mentioned in other chapters, and other Epistles, reminding us that we are; **"ONE BODY",** and **"ONE SPIRIT"**, even as each of us are called in **"ONE HOPE"** of our individual callings.

Verse 5; He continues this line of thinking; we have **"ONE LORD", "ONE FAITH", "ONE BAPTISM".**

Verse 6; **"ONE GOD", and "Father of all",** who is above all, through all, and (living) within us all.

Verse 7; **"But"** unto every one of us is given grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ. So what we have to understand here is that Christ decides how much grace he is going to give each of us "individually".

If we use this gift wisely, and for His glory, He will increase our level of grace.

Verse 8; When He ascended up on high (into the heavens), He led captivity captive.

[Many do not realise that here Paul is referring to a passage out of Psalm 67:19 and Psalm 68:18. In the Peshitta (Syriac Translation) which says; "*Thou didst ascend on high, and take captivity captive and thou gavest gifts to men".* This is also in the Aramaic Translation in the Targum; *"He gave unto men".*]

Verse 9; (Now He that ascended, what is it that He also descended, first into the lower parts of the earth?

Verse 10; He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fulfil all things).

Paul included these two verses in brackets, as he is using the "Rabbinical Technique" of teaching ~ reminding the readers who we are really talking about here, who is the person with all of this wisdom, power, authority and grace. **It is none other than Jesus Christ Himself.**

So Paul has now set the guidelines, and under what power (the Holy Spirit) and under what authority (Jesus Christ) he is now speaking to the Church at Ephesus.

Verse 11; And He (Jesus Christ) gave **some**, Apostles, and **some**, Prophets, and **some**, Evangelists; and **some**, Pastors and Teachers. Notice that these are **"God-given offices"**, written in priority order, to the whole Body of Christ. They are not given to denominations, nor are they **"appointed by man"!**

Notice also that Apostles, Prophets and Evangelists, are all prefaced by the word "some", but Pastors and Teachers are grouped together, meaning there can be many of them.

There are many definitions of what these 5 offices are, but I prefer to describe them as below;

a) **Apostle**: Called and anointed by God, to be a **"trailblazer"**, to go into un-charted territory, so they can break new ground.

b) **Prophets**: To be the **"mouthpiece of God"** to a generation, to listen and to speak the word of God, to prepare a generation for things to come; irrespective of whether they are blessings or curses.

c) **Evangelists**: To go and **"spread the good news of the gospel, with signs following"**, to convict the unbelievers, and bring them to the foot of the cross, so that the blood of Jesus can cleanse them of all of their unrighteousness.

d) **The Pastor & the Teacher** are grouped together, because their role is to **"care for"** and **"teach the sheep"** that have been brought into the sheepfold, by the three offices mentioned above.

And then Paul sums up their real purpose in verses 12 -15.

These offices are for;

Verse 12; they are for: **the perfecting of the saints",** for **"the work of the ministry"**, for **"the edifying of the Body of Christ".**

This is continued on in the next verse.

Verse 13; Till we **"ALL Come to the Unity of the Faith",** and of **"the Knowledge of the Son of God", "unto a perfect man", "unto the measure of the stature", of "the fullness of Christ";**

Verse 14; that we henceforth "**no longer be (spiritual) children**", "**tossed to and fro", and "carried about with every wind of doctrine"**, by the **"sleight of men"**, and **"cunning craftiness"**, whereby they **"lie in wait to deceive"**;

Verse 15; But **"speaking the truth in love"**, "**may grow up into Him" (become more Christ like) <u>in all things</u>**, which is the head, even Christ.

By definition: **Intercessors** are **"praying prophets".** They are called to be watchmen & women on the walls, to hear the word from the Lord and to speak it as plainly as possible, under the anointing and guidance of the Holy Spirit. They are also called to offer up prayers of intercession and supplication straight into the Courtrooms of Heaven, on behalf of individuals, groups and/or nations.

As per the priority order given by the Holy Spirit to Paul, they are second in spiritual authority, the first being the Apostles, but we are ALL directly responsible to God Almighty for our actions.

As has correctly stated; the role of the Intercessors in the Body of Christ is misunderstood. Their roles are not mentioned except vaguely in the Old Testament, as "watchmen on the walls". They are the "spiritual backroom boys and girls" who spend many hours before the Lord, to get messages to pass onto others, to guide them, heal them, or warn them of impending troubles.

One of their functions is to understand the role of the various courtrooms in heaven and how we have direct access into these places, through the blood covering of Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, some Pastors and teachers do not understand this role and why it is so important. If they did, then they would be firstly "teaching other pastors and teachers" this important revelation, so they in turn could teach their whole congregations, and we would then move another step closer to being in **"Spiritual UNITY"** and also moving one step closer to becoming mature in the Faith and the Revelation of Jesus Christ as the head of the Body.

When this happens, we would ALL be facing Jesus, with Him as our priority focus, and doing "collectively" what has been revealed to the whole Body of Christ, through the Holy Spirit.

This was the picture that Apostle John saw in Revelation chapter two, they were all facing Jesus, but they were not in UNITY, nor were they all at the same level of spiritual maturity, so judgement came upon them, if they failed to take the recommended "corrective" actions. ***I pray that we all learn from this part of scripture.***

We are all in this together.

THE FIVE HORSES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The Book of Revelation is the culmination of many prophecies ~~ the point at which all the prophecies of the ages converge and find their ultimate fulfilment.
Revelation discloses the future of the JEWS, GENTILES, and THE CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. Within its pages are specific details concerning the Saviour's return, the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom and, finally, the eternal state of both the saved and the lost,[3] either living on a new Heaven and Earth, or in the Abyss, referred to as Gehenna, Hades, or Hell.

At the time that Apostle John was recording the dictation from Jesus in heaven, there were no verse numbers, or chapters, because they were not inserted into the Bible until centuries later.

Chapter One: identifies who is the author and the authority given in this Book, which is the only book in the Bible that promises a pastor a blessing if He reads it to His congregation, and also promises a blessing to those in the congregation, who hear, and put into practise, the writings of this book. Within chapter one, there are several references to the number seven ~ the number of perfection.

Chapters Two & Three: examines the seven (7) physical churches in Asia, which are also the seven (7) "different" church types during the Age of the Gentiles.

Chapter: Four: is where John is invited up into Heaven, and John starts to describe his visions. He continues this same vision in what is now defined as;

[3] The Preface in the Jack Van Impe Prophecy Bible on the treatise of the Book of Revelation begins with this statement.

Chapter Five: Here we see Jesus holding a scroll with seals on the outside of it. In Verse 13, the prophecies of Philippians 2:9-11 are fulfilled: *Wherefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a name, which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father. Now we come to the description of "horses in heaven".* We will mention them briefly hear and then in more detail.

Chapter Six: In Verse 2, we discover a **"White Horse".** White signifies purity ~ ***but do not be deceived!***
In Matthew 24:3-5, the disciples asked Jesus; *what shall be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said to them, take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ.* The **"first rider"** on a **"white horse"**, mentioned here, depicting the first seal **<u>is a counterfeit!</u>**
Satan always tries to do everything that the Lord Jesus Christ is ***"going to do"***. He tries to do it before Jesus does it, to deceive people and to take glory away from Jesus Christ. **Notice; God does not give any power to the rider of this first "white horse".**
The Lord Jesus is seated on a **"white horse"** in Revelation 19:11, when Jesus returns to this earth with the Bride.
Satan tries to deceive the whole world by doing this same thing, seven years BEFORE it is to come to pass **"at God's appointed time"**. Because of this deception, many within the church will be deceived and will fall away, following after "other gods", and hence fulfilling another prophecy.
In verses 3 & 4 we have the following: Jesus opens the Second seal and there went out a "**Red Horse".** Power was given to "**the second rider"** to take Peace out of the earth that they should kill one another and he was given a great sword. This is the second sign that Jesus gave: "that there shall be wars and rumours of wars". [Matthew 24:6]
In verses 5 & 6, Jesus opens the Third seal and releases the third Horse, which is a "**Black Horse"** and **"the third rider"** has a pair of balance scales in his hand, as he weighs out the grain. This signifies a great famine. [Matthew 24:7].
In verses 7 & 8 we have Jesus opening the Fourth seal and there is released the **"Pale Horse" (or "Green Horse")** and the Rider that sits upon this horse is **Death** and ***Hell followed him***. And power was given to him then over one quarter of the earth, to kill with sword (wars), and with hunger (famines), and with death, and with the beasts of the earth (who will turn against mankind). [Matthew 24:7]
The Four figures in the Book of Revelation are the riders, who symbolize the evils to come at the end of the world. The figure representing conquest rides a white horse; **war**, a red horse; **famine**, a black horse; f**amine and plagues**, a **pale (green) horse, death and destruction**. They are often called the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

So, after that brief introduction to part of the Book of Revelation, maybe a more detailed investigation is necessary.

OPENING HEAVEN'S GATES

In the scriptures we are told that Jesus is going to prepare a place for us, and that He will come back for us, and we will be with Him in this place for eternity. Do you know what Heaven is like? Will you be happy when you get to Heaven? Do you know what you will do, when you get there? These are questions all mature Christians should be able to answer. This teaching will hopefully answer some of these questions, or point you to another book, which can explain it for you in greater detail.

As indicated in my book ***On the Potter's Wheel****,* I was involved in a horrific car accident in 1969, my neck was broken and I became paralysed. But God raised me up with a miraculous healing and I walked out of that hospital, without a wheelchair, or a pair of crutches, or a cane, ready to serve the Lord for the rest of my life.

As proclaimed by Apostle Paul, so I can also proclaim: ***"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ"*** and have travelled to 43 countries to preach/teach the gospel to a dying world, suffering beatings, torture and jail for the gospel. In that time I have helped plant 39 churches, trained, raised and ordained pastors and elders, to take over the responsibility of running these churches, for the glory of Jesus Christ.

For more than 50 years I have been involved in worship ministry. When I compose music, sing, or play violin, I find it so easy to go into the heavens, right into the throne room before the Lord and seek His face.

But my greatest joy has been seeing thousands of people make decisions for Jesus Christ, coming out of Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and other "isms" or occults, to change their lives and follow Jesus Christ, as their own personal saviour.

My burden now is to write Christian books and Christian teaching material[4], to expound the Gospel, so that people can be challenged in their daily lives, to live a life worthy of the sacrifice that Jesus made upon the cross for each of us.

Jesus said that He came ***so that not even one soul shall be lost***. But He gave us, (the Body of Christ, the "born again" Christians), the responsibility to "go to all the nations", to preach/teach the gospel, to "make disciples", so that we will all obediently follow Him and give glory to His Father in Heaven.

We are told by Jesus, that in His Father's house there are many rooms, and that Jesus is going to prepare a place for us, and then He is going to come back and take us to the place that He has prepared for us.

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[4] I have now completed the video teaching of the whole Bible, so that people can hopefully learn and understand more about Jesus & His ministry. [www.facebook.com/cttnbc] then click the videos tab.

We are also told that we (individually) will be part of the Bride of Christ, that we will rule and reign with Him on this existing Earth for 1,000 years. The scriptures give many individual references to the **"existing"** Earth, the **"existing"** Heaven, the **"New** Heaven" and the **"New Earth**". We are told that this **"new place"**, this "New Heaven" and this "New Earth" will be a ***much better place*** than the Earth we live on now; that we will have new redeemed, resurrected, perfect bodies, which we will use to rejoice and serve God for eternity.
This should make every "Born Again Believer" want to jump out of their existing sinful skins, and move to a place where we can experience the joys of a new "resurrected body", with all the privileges that this will provide.
Jesus commanded us to go into all the world and preach the gospel, teaching them (by example) all that He has taught us, by making people into disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our life on this earth, is but a grain of sand on a 90 mile beach, compared to the life we will spend with Jesus on the earth for 1,000 years; then for eternity on the New Earth, when God comes down to dwell with us.

If this is true, (as confirmed in scripture) then we (the Body of Christ) need to know a lot more about this new part of our lives and the ***"New Place"*** we are going to live in. Therefore, let us start with a few basic questions:

- How do you know ***(for sure)*** that you are going to Heaven?
- When will the "rapture" occur?
- Who will be included in the "rapture"?
- Where will we go at the "rapture"?
- When will we come back to rule and reign with Jesus for 1,000 years?
- Who will be the people that we rule and reign over, on this existing earth for this 1,000 years?
- What laws shall we use, when we rule with Jesus on this existing earth?
- When will Jesus resurrect this earth and make it into the "New Earth", the earth which has been redeemed from the Curse of Sin?
- When will Jesus make the "New Heaven" and the "New Jerusalem" where God dwells?
- When will the New Jerusalem descend down upon the New Earth and God take up His permanent habitation among His resurrected, redeemed people?
- When will God the Father become "Emmanuel" and come and dwell amongst us?

These are just a few questions that I have raised, ***that every mature Christian should be able to answer***. How can we tell the unbelievers about this great ***"new place"***, if we don't know the answers to these questions ourselves, within the Body of Christ?

Jesus promised a blessing for all pastors who preach/teach from the Book of Revelation (Rev. 1:3); therefore this information ***should be taught from every pulpit, in every church, and every nation on this earth***, so that all Christians understand how great a God we have, to provide such a great place for us to spend eternity with Him.
This book is an attempt to answer some of these questions, based upon scripture and revelations from the Holy Spirit. For a more detailed study of these topics, I recommend that you purchase, read and study intensely, the book entitled "Heaven" by Randy Alcorn. [ISBN 978-1-4143-0282-9]. It will cost you about $20, but it is worth it, if this makes you 100% sure, in your spirit that you know you are going to be with Jesus for eternity – not in the "other place", which is called Sheol (Hell.)

INTRODUCTION: ELEMENTARY TEACHING

It says in Hosea 4:6: *My people perish (die) for want of knowledge. As you have rejected knowledge, so do I reject you from my priesthood; you have forgotten the teaching of Your God, I in My turn, will forget your children.* [5]
This is a terrible judgement which God revealed to the nation of Israel through the prophet Joel. If you read further into this chapter in Joel you will see that God was not very happy with the priesthood of that time and *He passed judgement upon them* ~~ and their nation[6].
The Body of Christ is to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation, wholly dedicated to the ways and customs of our God, *without wavering, or without allowing any form of worldly culture to illegally migrate itself within the Church.*
It says in Hebrews 6:1-3, let us put aside these **"elementary teachings"** (*this kindergarten stuff*) and move onto more mature teachings, so that we grow into the fullness of stature, the knowledge and maturity of Jesus Christ. But before we can do that, the individual congregation members must be tested, to answer questions about these **"elementary teachings".**
Therefore, let us look at these "elementary teachings", for just a couple of moments, identify what the writer of Hebrews considers to be ***"elementary teachings"*** and see if they cause any controversy, or confusion amongst us.
Hebrews 6:1-3 says: ***Therefore, leaving***:

1. **the "doctrines" of Jesus Christ**:
    1. Notice it is "doctrines" (plural). Which means that there is more than one doctrine.
    2. How many are they?
    3. What are they?
    4. Can you name them all?

[5] Hosea (Jerusalem Bible Translation)
[6] This is a warning to ALL nations.

    5. Can you explain these doctrines?
    6. Do you understand and agree with these doctrines?

2. Not laying again **"the foundation of repentance from dead works".**
    1. What are "dead works"?
    2. Do Christians do them?
    3. How can we do works which are not dead – that is "live works"?

3. And **"Faith towards God".**
    1. There is faith towards God & there are other types of faith.
    2. How do we define & differentiate between these different types of faith?
    3. How can we increase our level of faith towards God?

4. Of **"the doctrine of baptisms".**
    1. Notice "Baptisms" is plural – which means more than 1 baptism.
    2. How many baptisms are there?
    3. What are these baptisms?
    4. Do we need to receive all of them?
    5. How can we receive all of them?
    6. When does each of these baptisms occur?

5. And **"laying on of hands".**
    1. What is the function of "laying on of hands"?
    2. What are the qualifications to be able to do this?
    3. Upon whom should it be done?
    4. Who has the authority to "lay on hands"?
    5. What should be the result(s), for the person who received the "laying on of hands"?

6. **"Of the resurrection of the dead".**
    1. Is being "raised from the dead" and "resurrection from the dead" the same thing?
    2. Who can do this?
    3. When does it happen?
    4. Are there different types of "resurrections from the dead"?
    5. For example: Lazarus was "raised from the dead" by Jesus. Will Lazarus be also "resurrected from the dead" at the last day?

7. **"Eternal Judgement".**
    1. What is it?
    2. When will it occur?
    3. Will all Christians suffer the Eternal Judgement?
    4. Are there any sins which cannot be forgiven by Jesus?
    5. What is this sin?

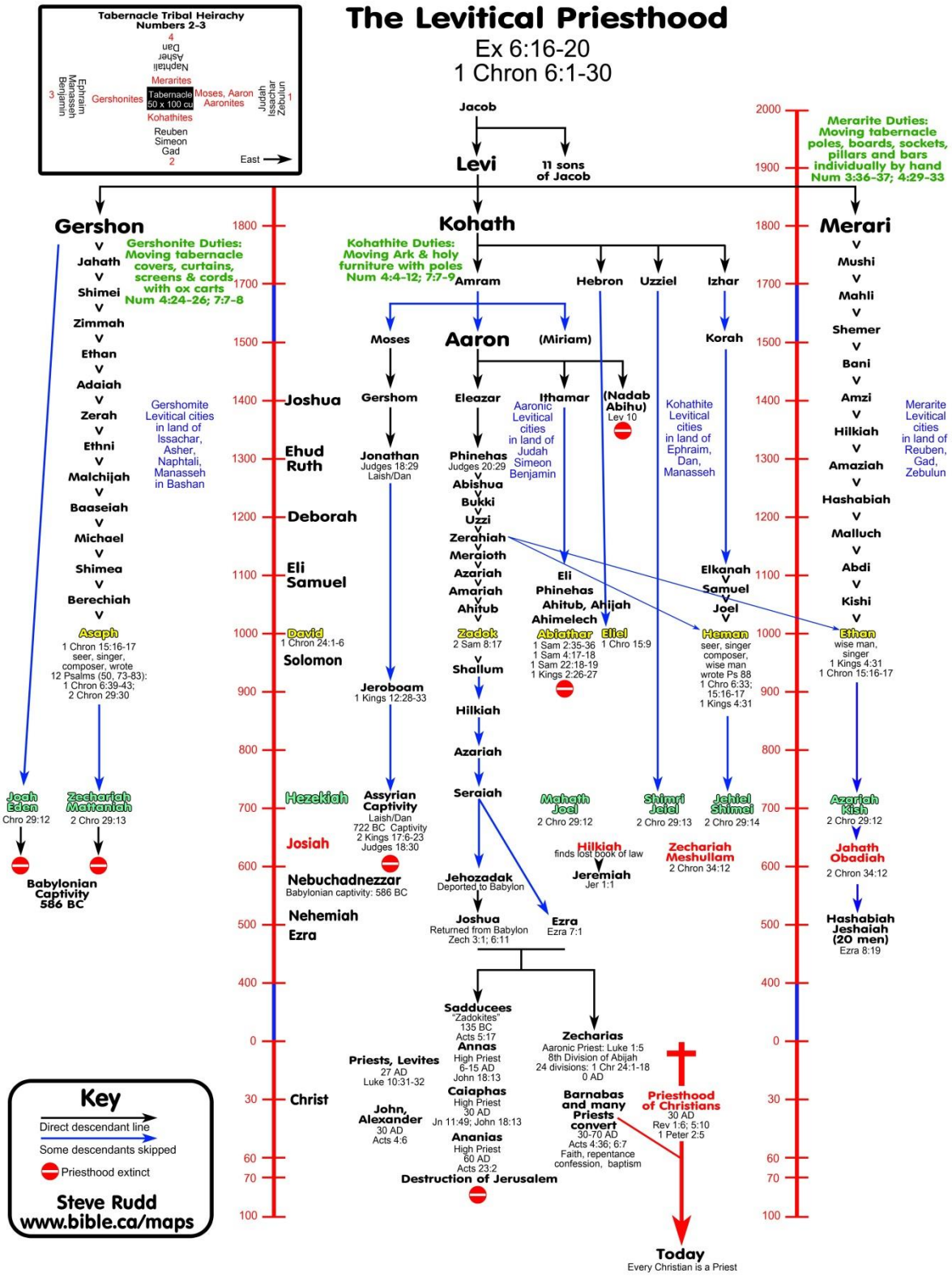
Then verse 3 says: ***"And this we will do – <u>If God permits</u>."***

If we don't pass these tests, **then God will not allow us to move to the next level of spiritual maturity**. We will have to "go round the mountain again", until we learn and understand these teachings.
The role of a pastor is to ***"make way for the King"***, by moving aside any obstacles, which will prevent people achieving their spiritual goals, their destinies, and their divine callings. This includes teaching about where "born-again" Christians will spend the majority of their eternal lives – that is – on the New Earth.
If you have looked at this list of questions that I have raised above – these *"elementary teachings"* and you could not answer some of them, may I suggest that you ask your pastors to teach these subjects, because you will not be able to proceed towards spiritual maturity in your Christian walk, until you clearly understand what is referred to as "elementary teachings" – <u>that is "kindergarten stuff" in the Christian walk with God.</u> This is according to scripture – not me just saying so. Remember: **"You have not, because you asked not."**

THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD

Many people in western society have lost, or failed to understand the role of the Levitical priesthood. Others look and think - it's in the Old Testament, so it does not apply to us, because we live under grace, not under the law.
It is true that we now live under grace and not under the law, but it is not true that we should disregard what is written in the Old Testament, because it is a shadow of what is to take place in the New Testament.
The Levitical Priesthood is no exception. They were ordained into this office **to minister unto God** – not unto man. They were to minister to God in the temple, ***whether there were any people in the temple or not!***
How many pastors (priests) do you know, that would minister to empty seats? Not many? That is because they have not understood their responsibilities of ministering unto God.
In the following study you will see that God sent an unnamed prophet to Eli to give him a message. *This message is still relevant today, because the prophecy states it will be in operation until Christ comes again*. So this prophecy starts in the Old Testament and will finish when Jesus comes back ~~ at the end of the "Age of the Gentiles".
We are all commanded to be sons and daughters of the king, a royal priesthood, before the throne room of grace. How can we act like priests if we do not understand their role, function and responsibilities?
Notice the prophecy clearly indicates two (2) very different types of priests which will be allowed to exist within the Body of Christ, right up until Christ returns for His bride.

In the diagram below you see the Levitical Line of the Priests, which starts with Jacob (Israel) and goes all the way up until today. This means it includes us ~~ you and me.



THE ZADOK PRIESTHOOD

Discerning the Difference between the "Holy" and "Phony" Ministries**!**[7]

The book of First Samuel tells us that an unnamed prophet came to Eli with an awful message. This unknown man delivered an amazing prophecy -- one that has everything to do with what we see going on in the church today.
It is a word that reveals much about dead, dry, ungodly ministers and churches that are in operation in the world around us right now!
This prophecy tells of two priesthoods that would develop and continue, from that day onwards, until the very end of time. Both of these priesthoods would be ministering in the church. One would be cursed, with abominable shame. But the other would be a ministry after God's own heart!
The unnamed prophet tells Eli: "Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house" (1 Samuel 2:31).
He is describing a curse upon the ministry of Eli! But then he continues: "And I will raise me up ***a faithful priest*** that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever" (verse 35).
This prophecy of two priesthoods is being fulfilled today -- right before our very eyes. Indeed, both ministries are operating simultaneously, in nations all across the world!
First, the prophet speaks of the ongoing ministry of a self-centred, backslidden, compromising priesthood. He describes those priests who are ***"of the spirit of Eli"***, mentioning two specific things:

1. **Priests who please man more than God**
    a. Such priests are "people-pleasers", more than "pleasers of God". "Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering ...and honour thy sons above me..." (verse 29).
    b. Eli was soft on sin! He never made any decisions that would offend his two sons. Only once, in over fifty years of ministry, did Eli correct them. They had been committing adultery, raping women, committing the most vile acts. Yet even then, all Eli could say to them was, "Why do you do this?"
    c. This man had no righteous indignation! He was not a "keeper" of the Law. He never shared God's wrath and hatred toward sin. And he represents a priesthood of ministers who are afraid to reprove God's family, that is - the congregation today!

[7] This is an excerpt from an article b*y David Wilkerson, July 25, 1994*

d. **Unfortunately, there are churches today that you can attend for up to a year, and yet never hear one word of reproof**. A church could be totally corrupted -- half of the congregation divorcing, adultery rampant, teenagers sleeping around, children unruly.
e. The whole congregation can be given over to pleasure(s), or sports, or other forms of entertainment -- but there is never a word of correction from the pulpit!
f. Instead, the pastor caters to the people's weaknesses and cravings. He is afraid to offend anyone -- ***afraid the offerings will go down and he'll lose his income.***

This is the first characteristic of the evil ministry developing in Eli's soul. And it is the mark of every ongoing compromising priesthood in the world today!
They cater to their own needs and comfort rather than giving themselves toward the needs of the flock. They "...make (themselves) fat with the chief, (or best portion) of all the offerings of Israel my people" (verse 29).
When the people brought the meat offering to the priest, it was supposed to go into the seething pot to be boiled. Afterward, the priest dipped a three-pronged hook into the pot, and whatever came out on the hook went onto his table.
But Eli's two sons didn't want the boiled, sodden meat. They wanted the red, raw filet mignon! So they brought their father the prime cuts. There was no sodden flesh on his table. That's how Eli got fat, lazy, and very careless. If he would have dealt with his sons, he might have lost his filet mignon!
Eli was concerned with his own interests, his own table. ***And that is what is happening in many dying churches today:***

Many preachers are interested only in their own comfort, in caring for themselves -- instead of spending time on their knees for the sake of the people entrusted into their care!

The prophet is saying, "You are self-absorbed, Eli -- feathering your own nest! To you, the ministry means nothing more than food on the table, security for you and your family. You are treating this position as a **"profession"**, **not "a calling from God"**. You don't really care about the flock. You are more interested in what goes onto your table than in what goes into the people's hearts.
Yet you never once think about how your compromise and selfishness, brings reproach to God's honourable name. You never consider the people who watch as your sons steal the prime meat. You are soft on sin, afraid to reprove -- because you're consumed with things that make you comfortable!"

The Unnamed Prophet Pronounced Three Terrible Judgments on This Priesthood!

Every "so-called minister" who is of the seed of Eli -- compromising, soft on sin, concerned only for himself, -- will know these three judgments:

1. A loss of all spiritual power and authority.
"...they that despise Me shall be "***lightly esteemed***". Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm [strength], and the arm of thy father's house..[inheritance]." (Verses 30-31).
To be "lightly esteemed" by the Lord meant a loss of God's favour and blessing! It meant your work has had no impact against Satan's kingdom. Such a minister may be esteemed by others -- but in God's eyes he is a lightweight, someone in whom God puts no trust!
God said, "You despise Me by not preaching My whole counsel. You're not a man of prayer. You're not concerned about My people, but only about your success and reputation. You just want to make sure there's a crowd. You have lightly esteemed My Word -- and now I am going to ***lightly esteem* you!** Go your way -- do your own works. You are ***lightly esteemed*** in My eyes!"
This cutting off of God's anointing, leaves the Eli priesthood to busy themselves with helter-skelter programs - works of the flesh that only look good. It all sounds like important kingdom work, but God refuses to touch it! It is simply busy activity -- lightly esteemed ministries, undertaken by lightly esteemed ministers!

2. They will be bypassed by the true anointing and blessing of God in the last days.

"And you will see the distress of my dwelling, in spite of all that I do good for Israel..." (verse 32, NAS).
In other words: "When I choose the time to pour out My Spirit, you'll be standing in ruins!" And that's exactly what is happening in Britain, Australia and America today: Preachers are standing in churches that are dead, dry and ruined! God has said to them, "I will pass you by!" This priesthood will be standing there among the ruins as God blesses and anoints another priesthood, -- men of God who have paid the price!
Right now, in these last days, His anointing is falling on those who have given their lives to Him, who are prepared to serve Him and Him alone, without any thought for their own well-being. The Spirit is laying hold of these praying, fearless men.
But those of Eli's seed are being bypassed -- left to play their church games! God is saying, in essence, "In spite of all I do, you will not see the good! You will not be part of My last-day, holy remnant. You are lightly esteemed -- and you will go about your ministry with no real spiritual authority!"

3. They will lose God's touch in the very prime of their life.
"...all the increase of your house will die in the prime of life" (verse 33, NAS). This verse is taken two ways.
First, it was fulfilled literally when Saul sent Doeg up to Nob to slay eighty-five (85) priests, who were of the seed of Eli. But the verse also has a spiritual application: It is saying that this priesthood will look good up to a certain point. The ministers will be very active and busy.
But just at the point when they ought to be at their best -- full of energy, power, wisdom and holiness, ready to be used the most -- ***a spiritual death will take place***.
God is going to leave them! They'll be left standing before the people as dead men, while in the very prime of their lives! Yet perhaps the most tragic of all the prophecies given by this unnamed man of God is that this backslidden, compromised priesthood would never be cut off from God's altars! ***This evil ministry would continue to the very end:***
"Yet I will not cut off every man of yours from my altar that your eyes may fail from weeping and your soul grieve." (Verse 33, NAS).
God will not cut them off! Compromising, spiritless, dead men are going to exist in the pulpits of many churches, till the last days, when the Lord returns. But, God says, "What a grief they're going to be. ***They will be a cause for weeping!"***
Now, I want to show you another kind of priesthood. It is the other ministry of priests that the prophet said God was raising up:
"But I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and in My soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he will walk before My anointed always" (verse 35, NAS).
This holy ministry is the **"Zadok priesthood"!** It is made up of faithful, holy ministers of God, who walk and live according to His desire – not their own desires, because they have been completely surrended to Jesus.
And such a priesthood remains to this very day! Everything that this unnamed prophet prophesied is fully illustrated in David's kingdom. David is a type of Christ, and Israel is a type of church.
David had two priests who fulfilled these two prophetic priesthoods to the letter: **Abiathar** and **Zadok**. "And hast thou not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar, the priests?" (2 Samuel 15:35).

1. Let Us First Consider Zadok. [Zadok's name means ***"one who is proved righteous***".]

"Now these are they that came to David to Ziklag... And Zadok, a young man mighty of valour, and of his father's house twenty and two captains".
(1 Chronicles 12:1, 28).
Zadok was the first young priest to recognize God's anointing upon David! Men were fleeing to David, coming from all over, to join his forces. Zadok recognized that the Holy Spirit had left Saul. His ministry now was all hype, flesh, with no call or touch of heaven. And Zadok said, "I don't want any part

of that kind of ministry. It's dead -- God has gone from it. I'm going with David, who has the Spirit's anointing resting upon him!" So Zadok went to David at Ziklag -- never to leave him for the rest of his life!

Through every rebellion, Zadok stood with him, a man proved righteous. David had captured the priest's heart -- and Zadok never looked back.

Thank God, there are men of God like this in many pulpits today. These are men of prayer who are committed to Jesus, having walked away from all flesh, entertainment and worldliness. You know it when you hear them preach -- because something registers in your soul!

When others forsook David, Zadok remained faithful. David was running from his son Absalom, who had rebelled. And when David came to the brook Kidron, Scripture says, "Now behold, Zadok also came... and Abiathar went up..." (2 Samuel 15:24, NAS).

Notice here that both Zadok and Abiathar are with David. Both are at the brook Kidron with him, and both go back to Jerusalem at David's order.

So, while Absalom defiled David's concubines in full public view, and Israel went berserk with wickedness and revelry, two holy men stood in God's house -- Zadok and Abiathar.

And so it is today! While the whole world is going to hell amid unheard-of wickedness, God still has His holy men serving at His altar. He still has a Zadok priesthood, faithful in all God's Word!

2. **Consider Now the Abiathar Priesthood! [**Abiathar's name means ***"at peace with God."]***

He was with Zadok as they took the Ark back to Jerusalem. Indeed, at this point, Abiathar appears to be holy, dedicated, devoted, loyal to David. He will have nothing to do with Absalom's rebellion. He goes about his ministry looking as pure and uncompromising as Zadok.

But why is he never mentioned in the Word after this? Why is he not named among the prophets? Why does his name die out? Something happens. Suddenly Abiathar is "lightly esteemed" -- and Zadok is made the example of the holy, remnant priesthood. Why? It is because Abiathar had “the spirit of Eli” in him!

All those awful prophecies spoken by the unnamed prophet fell upon him. And it all happened quickly! The unnamed prophet had said that not all such kind would be cut off. Abiathar's father and eighty-three other priests who wore an ephod were slain by Doeg. Only Abiathar escaped! He ran to David -- and the ministry he represented survived, which was according to prophecy. Yet just as the prophet had spoken, Abiathar -- the seed of Eli -- in the prime of his life, and at the peak of his blessings, was seduced by the call of success. He lost his place with God's anointed!

You see, David had another son, Adonijah. His name means "success and prosperity." This young man pretended to introduce a "new move" into the land, by naming himself king. Yet, it was only another rebellion -- not a move of God -- but a snare of Satan!

This is the very ministry the prophet had warned of: “self-exaltation and success”.
"Then Adonijah...exalted himself..." (1 Kings 1:5). It was self-centeredness, pride! Adonijah said, "I will set myself up as king!" This young man was raised under a ministry of "no reproof": "And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, why hast thou done so?" (verse 6).
Notice here: Everything the prophet had prophesied of this kind of ministry had come to pass. All of the elements he had said would happen under this kind of priesthood were in this man, Adonijah! "And he conferred with Joab, the son of Zeruiah ..." (verse 7).
Adonijah surrounded himself with ungodly men! There was not a holy man among them -- not Zadok, not Nathan, not any faithful men of David (see verse 8). Scripture says that this group met at "the stone of Zoheleth" -- which means "place of the serpent." This was a group of self-serving, success-driven, ego-stroking rebels, worshipping a false god.
They cried out: "Here is something new, something that works! Away with David's old, worn out ways. God is doing a new thing in the land!"
Up to that point, Abiathar had been loyal to David. But now the word was out: "There's a new move taking place -- some great, new thing happening in the land. And it's very exciting!" It grabbed the heart of Abiathar -- because it looked like a ticket to success and prosperity. Now he could make it! He had found a new man and a new message!
I meet many people who come to this country from places in Europe, Africa and Asia where churches are dying. They hear about some new work happening in the churches here, and they become hungry to see it happen in their church – “a new move of God”.
Once, when I was overseas, I told one pastor friend, "You and your wife used to be on your faces continually, weeping before God. That's why your church was so blessed. But you've gotten so busy, you don't know God anymore!" This couple began to weep, crying, "You're right!" But instead of repenting, they went to America -- looking for some new program that might make their ministry work!
That is the ministry of Abiathar! He got caught up in a fleshly, ungodly work of Satan. And he gathered with the others at the stone of Satan, eating, drinking and shouting, "Long live King Adonijah!"
When David was told about it, he cried out, "Get me Nathan, the Prophet!" You see, when God wants to do something that really counts for His eternal purposes, He calls on those who have been shut in with him.
David is a type of Christ here. And he cried, "Forget Abiathar. Go get Nathan, the Prophet! I lightly esteem Abiathar. Tell Nathan to get the trumpet and the oil, and to go anoint Solomon to be king over Israel!"
So Solomon was anointed king. And the first thing he did was to kill Shimei, who cursed David. Then he began dealing with all of David's enemies -- ***and he called forth Abiathar***.
Now, I remind you that the unnamed prophet said this Eli-Abiathar ministry would never be cut off. And Solomon knew all about this prophecy.

Abiathar should have been executed for treason. But instead, Solomon told him: "You cast your lot in with my brother Adonijah. You tried to bring down this kingdom. And because of that, you deserve to die. ***But I'm not going to kill you***. You carried the ark of God for my father, David, and you were afflicted with him. Because of those things, I will not put you to death at this time. Now, go to Anathoth, to your own field, to do your own thing. ***You are lightly esteemed!"***

"So Solomon thrust out Abiathar from being priest unto the Lord; that he might fulfil the word of the Lord, which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh" (verse 2:27).

The Eli priesthood is still here today! But God says to their kind, "Go, do your own thing. I lightly esteem you!"

3. Ezekiel Understood the Prophetic ~ The Importance of These Two Priesthoods!

Both the Zadok and Abiathar priesthoods were operating in Ezekiel's day. And, like the unnamed prophet, Ezekiel prophesied they both would flow, as two streams of ministry to the very end: "...mark well the entering in of the house, with every going forth of the sanctuary" (Ezekiel 44:5).

God was telling Ezekiel, "Stand at My house and see all the people coming and going. Discern all the activities going on here. It's all an abomination! They're bringing strangers and foreigners into my house to defile it!"

Likewise today, the abominations going on in churches are so horrible, God is saying, "Enough -- I've had it!"

Ungodly ministers have brought into the holy sanctuary rock-and-roll, entertainment, utter foolishness, singers who use drugs and alcohol and don't even know Christ, or what He stands for.

These people stand ministering in the pulpit, and the congregations don't even know the difference! "And ye have not kept the charge of mine holy things: but ye have set keepers of my charge in my sanctuary for yourselves" (Ezekiel 44:8).

He was saying, in other words: "You've brought in foreigners, people who do not know me, to keep charge of my sanctuary!" These were foreign elements ~ wicked, unholy, unseparated, still of the world. God's house was being profaned!

So God appointed an Abiathar priesthood, to minister to a people, whose hearts were set on idols! The shepherds had strayed far from God. They were filled with the spirit of Eli, chasing fame and success -- and the people loved to have it so!

Thus, God appointed idolatrous priests to give the people what they wanted. "Like people, like priest!" "Yet I will appoint them to keep charge of the house of all its service, and of all that shall be done in it" (verse 14, NAS).

How blind such ministers are!

God says of them; **and they shall not come near unto me..."** (verse 13). They stand in the pulpit lightly esteemed by God, full of self-importance and idolatry, nowhere near to the Lord.

Yet they go through all of the motions: preaching, teaching, counselling, yes, all the ministerial duties. But they don't know the difference! They have no discernment, no witness of the Spirit of God!
Beloved, if you do not repent and surrender all to Jesus -- if you hold onto an idol in your heart -- you will end up listening to a minister who preaches to your idolatry!

God made a promise in His Word that if His people would repent and return to Him with all their hearts, He would raise up for them Zadok Shepherds!

"Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord... and I will bring you to Zion: and I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jeremiah 3:14-15).
Ezekiel prophesied that the Zadok priesthood would be very much alive and well in the last days.
"But...the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me, to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me, to offer unto me the fat and the blood, said the Lord God. They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge" (Ezekiel 44:15-16).
There will be no mixture in this priesthood: "...they shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, while they minister..." (verse 17). Wool mixed with linen represents mixture -- ***a little bit of God and a little bit of flesh***. But God says, "My priesthood is made of pure linen. There is no mixture!"
This Zadok priesthood will be fearless against sin -- and will have the power to lead people into righteousness and holiness.
"And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and the profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean" (verse 23).

These are the identity marks of the Zadok priesthood:

1. They are not afraid to reprove with the power and authority of the Holy Ghost.
2. They make clear to you what is wrong and what is right, until you gain the knowledge and wisdom to make right choices yourselves.
3. These men know and recognise the voice of the Lord. They know what God speaks, because they sit and wait on Him! They don't pray, "Bless me, bless my programs, and give me money..." Rather, they cry out: "Oh, Jesus, I love you! I want to know your mind and your heart!" “Show me your ways, Oh Lord, so I can truly walk in them”.

You may be saying, "It's good to know all this about preachers." But God is saying to you right now: **"What about you?"**

Dear Saints, Did You Not Know This Message Is All About You?

Scripture says, "(He) hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be the glory and dominion for ever and ever..." (Revelation 1:6). Beloved, this verse is true for the whole body of Christ! Everyone who calls himself or herself by God's name **is to be a priest unto the Lord**. So, I ask you: ***Which priesthood best describes your walk with God?***

Are you of Zadok? Or are you of Abiathar?

1. Are you self-centred -- running around to conventions and seminars, looking for comforting answers?
2. Or do you receive reproof with joy, knowing that God wants to cut the cancer of sin out of you, in order to heal you?
3. Do you buy tape after tape of some evangelist, to try to get a word from heaven?
4. Or are you learning to discern God's voice for yourself, by giving quality time to Him in the secret closet, in prayer and fasting, seeking God's face?
5. Everyone who lives by the name of Jesus should be learning to hear God's voice. He wants you to hear His word in your own heart! If you learn that, you can go to any church anywhere and know within five minutes if the Spirit of the Lord is there. If it's really Zadok, your hands will go up in the air. You'll say, "I'm hearing something good. Something is registering in my soul. This is God!"
6. Or -- you will discern what is of Abiathar. And it will make you sick to your stomach! You will flee, because you cannot stand the stench of this flesh!

Oh, God -- give us the spirit of the Zadok priesthood right now! We pray that you will rise up this priesthood in our church, in our city and in our nation, so we can hear Your voice and respond to Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE SONS OF ZADOK

Everyone knew that the Sons of Zadok were different!

There is a clear path explaining how man is to minister to God and what He requires of this ministry. In this day, we are challenged to examine our faith and belief structure, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in light of the Word. The King-Priest blessings are framed in powerful perspective, along with the demand for righteousness and holiness. It's time to release the Sons of Zadok!

The Sons of Zadok minister under the great High Priest, Jesus. Only the Sons of Zadok were to minister unto God. Eli ministered unto the people. Zadok ministered unto God.

Who Are the Sons of Zadok?

Few people even believe that God needed ministering to, or that anyone would know where to begin. Unmistakably, the essence of Ezekiel 44 was ***'what characterizes the person who may minister to God.'***

Ezekiel 44:14 was a pivotal verse, separating those who minister to the people and declaring who will **NOT** minister to God.

Only the Sons of Zadok were to minister to God. They ministered to God through their sacrifices, their leadership, all the while walking in holiness. Their prayers were mingled with their anointed, sweet smelling savour at the altar of incense. Their holiness exuded from their lives, as they offered sin and peace offerings. ***People knew... they were different!***

Ritual was/is not observed by the Sons of Zadok: They entered/enter into the presence of the Lord during their duties. They taught the difference between the holy and the profane. They talked differently and they walked differently. Their lives reflected the purity and holiness of the Lord.

Demonstration in the Holy Ghost and power is not the unusual but rather the ordinary for the Sons of Zadok. Only the Sons of Zadok (righteousness) could come before the Lord and minister unto Him. Those who walk in holiness compromising no aspect of Word or walk, and who teach the people to be holy - qualify.

<u>To minister to God begins with clean hands and a pure heart</u>.

Its rewards are different; instead of accolades from men, the Sons of Zadok find accolades from the Lord. His Presence insures that peace reigns and 'every dedicated thing in Israel shall be theirs' (Ez. 44:29)

Peace will rest upon the congregant's houses, as they minister to them holiness and the way of the Lord.

The bottom line is: Choose whether you will be a minister **TO THE PEOPLE only**, or **a MINISTER UNTO the People and UNTO GOD**.

Will you continue to be what you have been, or will you become a Son of Zadok? There is no middle ground: either you are a Son of Zadok, or you are not. That is why it is necessary to know what is and what is not related to the Sons of Zadok.

What it means to be a Son of Zadok speaks of the **"baptism of fire"** by the Holy Spirit. The sensitivity to the Spirit of God is about determination to have Jesus as my 'only' Lord.

Ez. 44; "Who will ascend into the Presence of the Lord or who shall stand in His Holy Place?" Psalm 24:3. Its rewards are different -- instead of accolades from men, Sons of Zadok find accolades from the Lord through His presence (Ezekiel 44:29).

Sensitivity to the Spirit of God and determination to have Jesus as their only Lord is their secret and power.

Demonstration in the Holy Ghost and power is not the "unusual", but rather the "ordinary" for the Sons of Zadok. They minister to God through their sacrifices and their leadership, all the while walking in holiness.
Their prayers are mingled with their sacrifices (worship). The earth splits with the sound of their praise & worship to the Most High God.
1 Samuel 1-4 tells us that the Sons of Eli represents the "flesh-religion", set apart from God; but the Sons of Zadok represent "a spiritual heritage", based upon intimacy with God.
That which is precious to Eli (the system) is its people and its goods. That which is precious to the Sons of Zadok, are their vows to God, and they have one rule -- they must obey the voice of the Lord in all things (Zechariah 6:15). Righteousness and "rejection of the system" characterize the Sons of Zadok. Eli ministers to the people and Zadok ministers to the Lord.
The system always substitutes something, to take the place of, or modify the real thing. Righteousness is fluid like a river.
Ezekiel 47 shows the origin in the Throne Room of the Temple of God. Sons know that one does not "take time to pray" because there simply is no meaningful time without it. We were made to commune with God.
"Religion/the system" can only minister to man. In Eli's times, ***holiness was not emphasized***. Zadok does not **practice "being in" God's Presence**, they just **"live in" His presence continually**.
Everywhere Zadok and his Sons find themselves there is great honour and blessing. I Kings 1:39-40 says, "And Zadok, the priest, took a horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon to be king. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, 'Long live King Solomon.' And all the people played on flutes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth split with the sound of it." Talk about the sound being released through their worship and intercession! ***We need to release the Sons of Zadok in houses of prayer and worship right across our nations today!***
Ezekiel 44:15, *But the priests, the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:*
Ezekiel 48:11, *It shall be for the priests that are sanctified of the sons of Zadok; which have kept my charge, which went not astray when the children of Israel went astray, as the Levites went astray.*
Ezekiel 40-48, deals with the glory of the future kingdom that Israel will enjoy, once the nation is reborn (chapter 37) and her enemies defeated (Chapters 38-39) at the second coming of Jesus Christ.
Twice it is repeated that the sons of Zadok will enjoy special blessings and special privileges in that kingdom because they remained faithful to God, despite the apostasy and idolatry of the nation.
Zadok was a priest who lived and served during the reigns of David and Solomon. He was of the line of Eliezer, Aaron's son (as opposed to the line of Ithamar; 1 Chronicles 24:3) and became the fulfilment of God's judgment

upon the house of Eli (1 Samuel 2:35) at the outset of Solomon's reign over Israel (1 Kings 2:27, 35).
As a young man, the Bible says that Zadok was mighty of valour (1 Chronicles 12:28). He was not only a priest but also a warrior. He remained true to the Lord and the king when others were carried away by the rebellions under Absalom (2 Samuel 15) and Adonijah (1 Kings 1).
His progeny served faithfully in Judah's great revival under King Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 31). Because of this steadfast commitment, the Lord will richly reward Zadok and his sons when Jesus Christ returns to rule and reign on the earth.
There is an important practical lesson for us to learn from this interesting statement in the book of Ezekiel. Just like Zadok and his sons, we find ourselves in a time when God's people on a massive scale are going astray. Despite the apostasy and the apathy and the ignorance and the lukewarm condition of today's church, God calls on us to stand fast, be faithful, and remain true to the charge He's given us.
And there are ETERNAL blessings and privileges that await those who will answer the call. I believe the Sons of Zadok minister 'to' the Lord and not 'to' the people. Also the Sons of Zadok will teach the difference between the holy and the common (unholy).

Where Are the Sons of Zadok? *[More than One Kind of Worship]*

Are you satisfied with the worship you are seeing and hearing in the body of Christ today?
This is a question I heard the Lord speak to me some years ago. I did not have to think long for an answer, as I have now been in worship ministry for more than 50 years. I had been very unsatisfied with what I had been hearing in churches and Christian meetings and on Christian television for a very long time.
I knew that there was a higher place. A place where the true worship of the Great Almighty God could be experienced by His children who truly loved Him. We had experienced this type of worship in the meetings in Singapore and Thailand in the early 1980's and longed for it to return to the Body of Christ.
Jesus had promised in John 4:23, "But the hour comes, **AND NOW IS**, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeks such to worship Him".
In saying this, Jesus made it obvious that there is more than one kind of worship. And further He stated that there is such a thing as "true worship" which is done in the spirit, rather than in the flesh. And He said the hour for that real worship was starting right then.
Yet today in the Body of Christ, I see very little of this type of worship. I estimate that less than 10% of all worship in churches across the nations falls into this category today, which is a pity, because where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Appearance of Worship

Part of the problem is our great advancements in technology. Virtually, everything can be programmed now. And if you do not have a great voice, no problem. The right equipment can be make anyone sound good!

I am not against the wonderful equipment that can be had today. I believe God is the inventor of it all. After all, we are told that Satan himself was created with tabrets and pipes right in him. (Ezek. 28:13).

However, equipment can become the instrument that is used to mimic reality. A person can be made to appear to worship, when in fact his heart is not worshipping God at all. You can be taught to look right and sound right, even when you are not right in your own spirit.

"Skill" has become more important than "anointing" in a lot of our services. But I still believe it is not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit, says the Lord. Give me an "anointed" musician any day over a "skilled" musician who has no anointing.

Horizontal Worship

In the Old Testament there is a bit of information about a man called Zadok. Now the name Zadok means "righteous". It means, just, or to make right in a moral sense. Zadok and his sons were priests but they belonged to a special order of the priestly calling. These men were men of great integrity, who were deeply committed to the call of God on their lives to worship Him who had called them. ***They were sanctified and consecrated to the work that the Lord had called them to do.***

In Ezek. 48:11 the Word says, 'It shall be for the priests that are sanctified of the sons of Zadok, which have kept My charge, which went not astray when the children of Israel went astray, as the Levites went astray."

The Levites were called to minister to the house of the Lord. Their responsibility was to care for the holy things and for the tabernacle itself. ***But the sons of Zadok had a different calling***. **They were called to draw near to God Himself and to worship Him only.**

You could say the Levites were called to horizontal ministry. They ministered outward, in regard to the tabernacle and to the Jewish people. The sons of Zadok had a vertical worship. They worshipped upward to God.

Horizontal ministry is necessary. It is not a bad thing. However this ministry is 'to' the people and not as much 'to the Lord.' The vertical ministry of Zadok is unique and it is a very high call to God Himself, before it ever touches the people of God. Both ministries are necessary.

Zadok Anointing

Most importantly I do believe the ministry of the Sons of Zadok is unto or 'to the Lord.' We are told in Revelation 1:5-6 that we have all been made to be kings and priests unto our God. Every Christian is a priest unto God.

Yet as surely as there were those who were Levites and those who were sons of Zadok in Old Testament days, so there are both kinds of priestly ministry today.

The reason we find ourselves unsatisfied with much of the worship today is that it does not come to us by the Zadok anointing. It is often ego driven and self-centred. But when you sit under a true Zadok anointing you will know it. Under that anointing you will find release from yourself, as you soar upward into the throne room of the Most High God. You will become lost in His presence and will no longer suffer from the fear of man. It is under this great anointing that you will experience realms of His Spirit, seeing visions and hearing the heavenly orchestra and choir. In this anointing you will also find healing and miracles to flow because you are in His Divine presence.
The worship that comes from a Zadok anointing will lift you higher and higher as you climb the Mount of Ascension, to where He becomes the very centre of your being. And at last, as you fall before His throne, you will know the satisfaction that comes from the union of God and man. In this place you know that He is satisfied with the worship as well.

The Zadok anointing doesn't have anything to do with technology, or voice training, or learning to play an instrument. It has to do with a spiritual endowment, an anointing given by God, and developed under His instruction. The worship produced under that anointing comes from the spirit of a man, touched by the Spirit of God.

The purpose of the Zadok anointing is to minister to God. Yet when you are in the presence of that anointing, (even if you are not moving in that anointing yourself), you will be ministered to as well. That anointing draws the presence of God and He is always so powerful and generous that when He draws near, you cannot keep from being blessed in numerous ways.
This is not about laying hands on people, although I very much believe in that ministry as well. This is about the awesome presence of God as He Himself is drawn to His people, by true spiritual worship.
This is not even what has come to be called "soaking music" for it has a prophetic edge, as God speaks to His people, through new song and the prophetic word, which is released by that anointing.
I do believe that this wonderful anointing is going to be poured out upon the Body of Christ in this hour. Though we have travelled all over the world, I can count on one hand the number of people with the Zadok anointing I have known. Yet I believe it is coming. The cry of God's people for true worship is growing now. Surely He will answer this cry from the hearts of His people.

Are you ready to cry out to God for the release of the Zadok anointing to fall upon the Body of Christ in your church, your city and your nation?

THE LOST SHEEP

Matthew 18: verse 1 onwards:
The disciples came to Jesus and asked Jesus this simple question: ***"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?***
Jesus gave the disciples an answer they were not expecting in verse 3: ***Except you be converted and become as little children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven".***
Firstly, Jesus tells His disciples that they must be **"converted".** They must be converted from what to what?
Conversion means change. They must be changed from their "***sinful"*** nature to a "***Godly"*** nature. They must become in the **"spiritual realm"**, as little children are in the **"natural realm"**.
What attributes do little children have?

1. Little children have no hidden agendas.
2. What you see is what you get.
3. They are not wolves dressed in sheep's clothing.
4. Little children have no pride.
5. Little children have no pre-conceived ideas, which they have inherited from their previous experiences.
6. Little children have total trust in their parents, who love and care for them.

These are the attributes that we (as disciples) have to become in the spiritual realm, so that God the Father can accept us into heaven.
Now you might say: "I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and I confess Him with my mouth, therefore I am saved."

1. Did Jesus say we have to become great warriors for God? NO!
2. Did Jesus say that you must become a great preacher for God? NO!

To enter into Heaven there must be a "child-like" spiritual faith and trust in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and a love for the lost souls, which presently are in Satan's grip and without a change in their lives they will end up in hell.
In verse 10 Jesus gives the Body of Christ a stern warning**. "*Take heed that you do not despise <u>even one</u> of these little ones"…***
Jesus tells us that children have a guardian angel which continually has access to the face of the Father in Heaven. If you despise, or hurt one of God's "little children", then their guardian angel communicates this directly to the Father. This means that the Father knows about it!!! You can't hide what you do to God's little children from Him.
In verse 11, Jesus reveals His true purpose for coming to this earth. "***The Son of Man is come to save that which was lost".*** What was lost on the earth, which is so important, that Jesus has to leave the throne room of Heaven and come to earth to retrieve it?

At creation, God gave the earth to *"King"* Adam. He commanded Adam to have "dominion" over the earth and all the living things upon it. But Adam gave this all away when he rebelled against God, by sinning and giving this "dominion" over to Satan.
Jesus came to earth to wrestle it all back from the grip of Satan and his cronies and to open the pathway for us human beings to once again dwell in unity with the Father, and with each other in peace, both here on this "Existing Earth" and in the "New Earth" which is prophesied to come.
Then Jesus asks His disciples this parable:
Verse 12. If a shepherd has 100 sheep and one goes astray, will he not leave the 99 sheep safely locked up in the sheepfold and go out into the wilderness, searching for that one which is lost?
This was a story every one of his disciples knew about. They had seen it in action in the foothills around Galilee many times; a shepherd carrying a 'lost sheep" over his shoulders, personally bringing the sheep back into the sheepfold, where he would deposit it into the middle of the 99 sheep which were still there, to once again bring the "lost sheep" into fellowship with the sheep in the sheepfold.

1. Jesus sets the priority.
2. Leave the 99 sheep and go out searching for the sheep that is lost.
3. Jesus commands the shepherd to leave the 99 safe sheep and go and search for the lost sheep.

Jesus did not say: Kick the sheep out of the sheepfold, if they don't agree with you, or if they question your way of doing things. It is the responsibility of the shepherd to go out and to bring the lost sheep back into the sheepfold. The blood of that "lost sheep" is upon the shepherd's head if it is devoured by wolves.

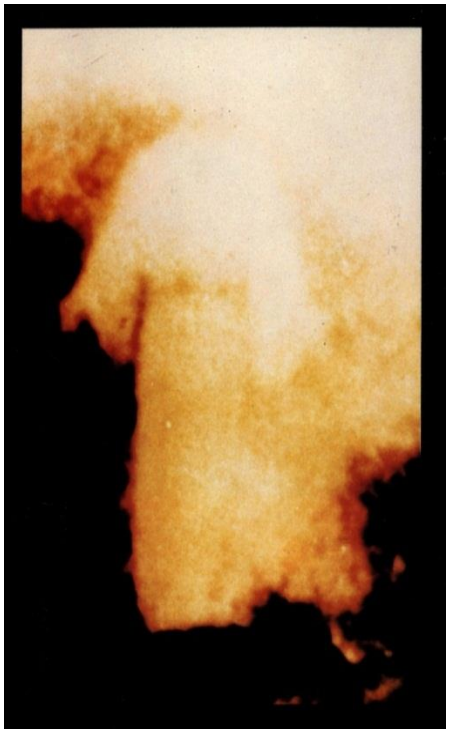
This statement is reinforced in verse 14: ***"It is not the will of your FATHER which is in Heaven, that <u>even one of these little ones</u> should perish."***
Note: There is nowhere in scripture that states that *"statistically there will be "y"% of people who will get saved and fall away and go back to their old ways"*. That is a lie straight from the pit of Hell itself!
Pastors who proclaim this attitude are not following their calling as "good" shepherds. Immediately after this parable, Jesus then explains how to deal with people who disagree with you in the Body of Christ (in the sheepfold).

Verses 15-17.

1. If you have a problem with a person, go and speak to them (in love) and discuss it together in private, so that he/she has an opportunity to correct their ways.

   a. *[This of course makes the assumption that you are right and he/she is wrong]*
2. If the person does not agree with you, then you are required to have two or three reputable persons from within the church (for example "elders") to go with you and speak privately with that person again, so that the problem may be resolved, by the word of two or three witnesses.
   a. This means that the witnesses must first show wisdom, to determine if the complaint against this person is valid, from a scriptural basis, and that the suggested means of correction, lines up with the Word of God.
   b. If it does not, then they must give advice to both parties, based upon the word of God – **<u>not because their pastor says so!</u>**
3. If the problem is genuine, and the elders agree that the method of correction lines up with God's word, and the person still refuses to change their ways, then this situation must be brought before the whole congregation.
4. If the person refuses to acknowledge the problem before the whole congregation, <u>only then</u> should he/she be cast out as a heathen (as an unbeliever) into the hands of Satan for trials and tribulation.

Unfortunately, many people have been ordered to leave churches by pastors acting in the flesh, but not by the process that Jesus (Himself) laid down in the scriptures.



Therefore, God cannot condone or bless these actions, nor the churches which allows this practise to continue. God can only bless practises which line up with His Word.

<u>THE MORAL OF THIS STORY:</u>
Follow God's word and receive a blessing. Disobey God's word, and suffer the consequences – the removal of God's blessings. WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE???

These things are written here so that the Body of Christ may line up with the Word of God and continue to be blessed, with God's ultimate blessings.

A NIGHT VISION (AUGUST 7, 2012)

I was reading the Book of Revelation and I saw Apostle John weeping, crying out that there was no one worthy in heaven to open the scroll with the seven seals. But the elders told him the good news, that the "Lamb of God" was worthy to receive the scroll and to open it.

Then I saw Jesus rise up from His seated position beside the throne, where He continually intercedes for us and take the scroll - but He did not open it!

His presence was like a lighthouse - with intense light emanating from His face - so bright that you could not make out the shape of His face.

Then Jesus turned to those around Him and He said: ***"Make ready the four horses - saddle them up, with bridles and all their finery, make them ready for the task that is set before them - but do not mount them yet"****. For I am sending* **'the spirit of separation'** *- of shaking and sifting upon the church, to separate out those who claim to be part of My bride, but who are not, from those who have faithfully trusted Me and done the things I have commanded them to do." "Because there is no UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, I will give these people over into their own hands to do what they wish - but I will not bless anything which does not line up with my word."*

"Those who claim to be shepherds of my flock, but who are in fact stealing my flock from Me, will be punished.

I will remove all blessings and protection from them." Let the People listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Those who listen and obey shall be blessed. Those who refuse to turn from their wicked ways shall have the protection of the Holy Spirit removed from them and be given over to Satan to punish them for a season."

The scriptures tell us that before the terrible day of the Lord occurs, there will be a shaking and a sifting throughout the Body of Christ, to purify the Bride, so that not even one blemish will remain. Now is the time to wake up out of our "spiritual sleep" and prepare our hearts and minds for the coming King.

WORD FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT ON 17/09/2012

The Word of the Lord came to me saying: "The time is coming and now is when those who love Me will worship Me in spirit and in truth, not because I have commanded it to be like this in My word, but because they love Me so much, that it is the desire of their hearts, to show their love for Me this way.

They shall be drawn to places where the worship is anointed and where the worship truly glorifies Me and Me alone. Where the Word is preached without any gleaning or glossing over of the real truths; where the Word clearly teaches My love, but also the consequences of disobedience to true worship; which includes humbleness of heart, seeking My face, and turning from their wicked ways.

There will be a new joy in these cities, which will get the attention of all those around about them, as people come to worship and pray, at all times of the day and night, not just on Sundays, ***but each day of the week!***

These places shall become "spiritual cities" placed upon hills, shining their lights out to a troubled nation and to a troubled world. However, not all cities that are *physically* built upon a hill will become a *spiritual city* upon a hill, only those cities which hear My voice, harken to My words and respond to My voice.

Toowoomba is a city that I have chosen to become one of these cities, <u>but this can only happen if My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways</u>.

No longer will I allow My name to be pulled down in the streets of this city, nor desecrated behind closed doors, by a people who have a form of godliness, but whose hearts do not glorify Me.

The time has come for the Spirit of Discernment to descend upon Toowoomba, like the Angel of Death in the wilderness, to seek out My true worshippers and draw them to Myself, to shine as a bright light to the nations.

I shall draw out My true church from among the brethren who claim to worship Me, but do not. They will worship Me in unity of spirit and mind, with My purpose being their only goal and focus. I shall confirm their calling with signs, miracles and wonders, which the world has not seen before, but will draw My people closer to Me and the love that I have for them."

So Church - now that you have been challenged, let us start the detailed study and "Open Heaven's Gates" so that we know with certainty, that we will enter into this existing heaven and see Jesus face to face.

ALL ABOUT HEAVEN

Section 1: Realizing Our Destiny; Are you looking forward to Heaven?

Many Christians hear sermons about what we should do here on earth, how we should live a good and righteous life, how we should be an extension of Jesus, by being "His hands and His feet extended". But when I ask them are they looking forward to going to heaven, a glazed look comes over their faces.

Yes, they will acknowledge that the scripture tells us: "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith who so ever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." (Romans 10:9-11)*

When I ask them to explain their salvation and what it means to be saved, to live a righteous life, and to look forward to the day when they will see Jesus

face to face, they are not so certain of the scriptural basis for these statements.
King David said these words: *"Show me, O, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath".* (Psalm 39:4-5)
Consider your life here on earth, just like a breath that you breathe out on a cold day into the atmosphere. In a couple of seconds it is gone – never to be repeated. No two breaths are the same, but each breath, is a confirmation of God-given life.
As I said in the Foreword: ***our life is like a grain of sand on a 90 mile beach* – insignificant**. Yet our God loves us so much that He sent His own Son down to earth, to die on the cross for our sins, so that we could once again come into His divine presence, to be fully redeemed and restored, to a life like Adam had - before his fall from grace. (John 3:16)
All of us have contracted a terminal disease. It is an inherited disease, caused by sin and the curse of sin, and it is called ***mortality***. Unless Jesus returns within the next 50 years, many people reading this book will have died (including me). Therefore it is important that we completely understand what Heaven is all about.

OUR UNBIBLICAL VIEWS OF HEAVEN

It is strange that something as important as this would have so many different and unscriptural views. If you took a survey within your own church, and asked them to explain what was their view of heaven, you would be surprised how many "different" types of heaven you would have. Just to give a few examples:

- *"Heaven is like a Sunday service which goes on forever"*.
  - I have sat in some Sunday services which I was glad finished within a couple of hours. I could not possibly imagine heaven being an *"exciting place"* if that image of heaven was forever.

- *"Heaven is a place where we will float around on clouds, playing lyres and harps, or singing wonderful hymns to Jesus forever".*
  - There is no scriptural basis for this view either.

- *"Heaven is a place where there is no sin, no disease, no arguments, no anger, no pride, no work, no death, where we have new bodies, where can walk through walls (like Jesus did when He appeared in the room with locked doors, before the disciples)".*
  - ***<u>This is "partly true".</u>***

  Yes, <u>heaven is:</u>
  - A place where there is no sin

- A place where there is no disease
- A place where there are no arguments, nor any anger
- A place where there is no pride
- A place where there is no death
- But, it <u>is a place</u> where we will "work" (we will rule and reign with Jesus) but even this *"work"* will be as worship to the Father, because we will be doing everything to honour, glorify and please Him.
- It <u>is a place</u> where we will have new resurrected bodies, which have been redeemed from the curses of sin and corruption. These bodies will be like the bodies of Moses and Elijah, when they appeared before Christ on Mount Transfiguration. Because these "resurrected" bodies have been "redeemed", they will be able to do greater things than we could ever achieve here on this earth, in our present "earthly sinful bodies".

Many Christians are quite confused when you start making clear distinctions between this "Existing Heaven" and the "New Heaven".

- When Jesus was on the cross, He told the robber beside him that "today you will be with me in Paradise". Jesus was referring to the "existing Heaven."
- In the Book of Revelation (chapter 6), the martyrs cried out to Jesus and asked "How long must we wait until you go back to earth and establish Your Kingdom"?
- The martyrs can not only communicate (from the existing Heaven) with Jesus (who is seated at the right hand of God the Father) in the "existing Heaven", but can also hear His responses.
- Jesus responded and told the martyrs that He would not return to this earth ***until the last drop of martyr's blood was spilt in the name of Jesus, for the defence of His Kingdom.***
- It is stated that angels rejoice in the "existing Heaven" each time a person makes a commitment to follow Jesus Christ, here on this "existing Earth".

It is clear from these statements in scripture, that people live in a state that is able to see what is going on in the "Existing Heaven" and on this "Existing Earth" and are able to communicate with Jesus Christ and hear His responses. **This alone should make us very excited!!!**

THEOLOGICAL NEGLECT OF HEAVEN

Can you remember the last time a preacher got up into the pulpit and spoke to you about Heaven? Some of you may have never heard any messages preached about the "existing Heaven", the "New Heaven, and the "New Earth".

For those students who have attended Bible Colleges in many countries, how many of you can remember a detailed Bible subject about the Book of Revelation, which included teachings about the "New Heaven" and the "New Earth"?

Some Bible Colleges go to great lengths to point out the faults and the promises of the seven (7) church types in Revelations chapters 2 and 3, and even go further to speak of the scroll with the seven seals and the twenty one terrible judgements, which will be released upon the earth, during the tribulation period.

But they stop short at Revelation chapter 20 and do not continue to the end, which is the ultimate climax of the scriptures (Revelations chapters 21 & 22).

Why do you think that a subject so important is not preached in our churches? Could it possibly be because Satan has infiltrated the church and is stopping the Body of Christ from receiving this great and important revelation? [Hosea 4:6 states that my people perish for lack of knowledge.]

Is it because Satan knows that if we had ***the true revelation of what is promised to us***, and what we will be able to achieve with the full power and anointing of the Holy Spirit, we would be considerably stronger adversaries here on earth right now; because we would know where our destiny is, and what we will be able to achieve when we get there.

Armed with this knowledge, we would become fearless witnesses for Christ here on earth, bringing lost souls into the kingdom, on a daily basis (24/7), not just at some meetings on a Sunday.

In these last days, there is a definite need for Biblical scholars and gifted teachers to start expounding the benefits of Heaven and how to get there. For far too long this part of the Bible has been neglected, and as a result, the Body of Christ is unprepared for the enormous spiritual battles which are about to befall us, in these last days.

Considering how long we are to live in the New Heaven and on the New Earth, it should be the most talked about, and preached about, subject in the Body of Christ.

Many people when questioned believe in a Biblical place called Heaven. When asked will they be going there, or how will they know for certain that they are going there, many people are not so sure of themselves, or the answers to these questions. Remember; ***Jesus came so that not even one soul should be lost.*** It is the responsibility of the "spiritual elders" the five-fold ministries within the Body of Christ, to make sure ***that not even one soul is lost!***

For those churches which refuse to acknowledge that the five-fold ministries are for the Body of Christ today, I have this to say to you. That's OK, but now **YOU MUST ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY YOURSELVES,** to make sure ***that not even one of the souls placed into your care (as the shepherd) are lost****!* The blood of every soul under your care is upon your head.

Author's note: I personally do believe that the five-fold ministries are for today; because I have yet to find any church in the 43 countries where I have preached, where their pastor was game enough to stand up before the Lord, and say that every member of his congregation had reached perfection; had reached the fullness of the stature of the Body of Christ; and that every one of his sheep were 100% guaranteed entry into heaven. **No sir, only a prideful, silly fool would say that!**

IS HEAVEN BEYOND OUR IMAGINATION?

Many Christians (including pastors) say that it is impossible to imagine Heaven, but there is no scriptural basis for such a statement.

God created us in His image and He gave us the ***"gift of imagination"*** to be used for His glory. Many "older people" (like myself), will remember the wonderful history making event in 1969 when Neil Armstrong landed on the moon and the now famous words he spoke on that occasion. **"One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind".**

Many of us could imagine being there with him that day, as we watched the pictures being beamed back to the satellite stations, firstly here in Australia, and then forwarded to America to the NASA Space Tracking Centre.

As we saw the pictures of the earth, (looking at it from the moon's surface), it gave us an image of how small and insignificant is our planet in the overall scheme of the universe – God's creation.

It gave us the opportunity to imagine, with more accuracy, what God's universe could be like; that there may be life in other solar systems and/or other galaxies. But it also gave us the confirmation that our planet is very special, because God the Father, chose to send His Son here to this existing earth, so that we, the people of this earth, maybe saved from our unrighteousness and be brought back to a position where we can once again have a direct one-to-one relationship with the Father, through Jesus Christ, His Son.

The scripture depicts the Garden of Eden as a wonderful garden, with all different types of trees, fruits and flowers growing there. Because we have seen many gardens, it is easy to "imagine" the Garden of Eden. It maybe that we will all have different concepts of what we imagine the garden will look like, but that we can all imagine it is proof that God has given us this ability to imagine.

Similarly, if I was to tell you that we have guests coming for dinner and that we must make a special attempt to ensure that the table is laid out with

"special" tablecloths, the "special" cutlery and all the other finery, like wine glasses and decorations, I am sure that you already have an image in your head about what this table would look like. Your individual images of what the table looks like will be different, but I am sure you can all see an image of that table in your minds.
Likewise, God has given us scriptures which give us examples of what Heaven is like. When each of us read these same scriptures and then use our gift of imagination to make an image of these scriptures, we will come up with different mind pictures of what heaven looks like. Does that mean that each person should end up with the same image? I do not believe so, because the images that we receive from God, when we apply our imagination to His word, are just parts of the whole jigsaw puzzle of what heaven is *really* like.
The scripture tells us that at present we see through a glass dimly, but when we are resurrected to be with Jesus, then we will see all things clearly - ***as they really are***. We will recognise parts of what we see, as being confirmation of the images we imagined, but there will be other parts of heaven which we did not see, which will make heaven an eternally exciting place. It will take eternity for us to see all of it, and to partake in all of its glory and knowledge. As we learn more and more about heaven, we will become more aware of how great our God really is.

NO EYE HAS SEEN, THEREFORE HOW CAN WE KNOW?

There are some pastors who quote 1 Corinthians 2:9 as a basis for this argument: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who diligently seek Him (love Him)." Unfortunately, they have taken this scripture out of context. *They have not continued on to read the next verse (verse 10)* which clearly states: "***but God <u>has revealed it to us</u> by His Spirit".***
God's own words clearly tell us that He has given us the Holy Spirit, so that the revelations about heaven can be revealed to us. If God's word clearly states that God's Holy Spirit has ***ALREADY*** revealed it to us, then it is up to us to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance so that this revelation becomes absolutely clear to us in the here and now.

SETTING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS UPON HEAVEN

"Set your hearts (and minds) on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God". (Colossians 3:1) This is a direct commandment from the Word of God and God Almighty would never expect us to do anything without us having the power and the ability to be able to achieve it.
To long for and desire Christ is to long for and desire heaven, for that is where we will spend our lives with Him. These two things are inseparable. We are going to spend eternity there, so we need to understand what Heaven is like and what will be our role when we get to heaven.

We have to start looking at the scriptures as God sees them (already fulfilled). God has given us the Holy Spirit to assist us in making that leap of faith, to a higher level; so that images we have now, line up more closely with the true images of what heaven is really like, and what the New Earth will be like, and how we will live there with Christ as part of His Bride, for eternity.

IS HEAVEN OUR DEFAULT DESTINATION ~ OR IS IT HELL?

Statistics indicate that for every person in America who believes he is going to hell, there are 120 who believe that they are going to heaven. This is in stark contrast to the words of Jesus (Himself) as recorded in Matthew 7:13-14, which states: ***"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few will find it".***

So, what will keep us out of heaven, and what must we do to make sure that we pass through the "narrow gate" and remain on the "narrow road" that leads to eternal life itself? Romans 3:23 gives us a clear indication of our situation and why it keeps us out of heaven. ***"All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God".*** Isaiah 59:1-2 states: *"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy that it cannot hear: BUT your iniquities (rebellion against God) have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear"***.**

It is sin which separates us from a relationship with God. In Habakkuk 1:13 we get a clear indication of why this separation is needed. *"Your eyes are too pure to look upon evil; you cannot tolerate (any) wrongdoing".*

Jesus makes it very clear in John 14:6 which states: *"I AM the way, (I AM) the truth, and (I AM) the life, No man comes to the Father, except by Me [I AM]".* Jesus (Himself speaking) makes it very clear that He is the narrow gate, through which we all have to pass, to get onto the narrow path, which leads us to life and to the Father Almighty.

This means that it does not matter if you belong to a church denomination. This is not a guarantee that you will ever get to heaven, because not one of these denominations went to Calvary for your sins – only Jesus Christ did this for you!

It does not matter if you believe that Mohammad was the Prophet of Allah. If you do not believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He went to the cross for your sins, ***you are still going to Hell***. Even Prophet Mohammad himself stated these words in Hadith 42:6. "Jesus (son of Mary), into whose hands I have put my soul, He shall come back (to earth) and He shall rule as a just ruler, over all Muslims".

This means that Mohammad recognised that Jesus was more than a Prophet, because he trusted Him enough to place his own soul into His care until He returns to earth, to become a just ruler, to rule and reign over all Muslims.
So my first question to all Muslims reading this book is this:
Have you put protection upon your soul?

1. Have you placed your soul into anyone's hands for its protection?
2. Into whose hands have you placed your soul for protection?
3. Mohammad put his soul into the protection and care of Jesus. What about You?

What is a just ruler?

1. A ruler is a person with authority, to make decisions over your life. These decisions can be either "life" or "death."
2. A just ruler is a person with authority, *who cannot be bribed, or persuaded, or threatened, to make favourable decisions in your cases*. He is a person who looks at the evidence before Him and makes His decisions, based upon God's laws and the evidence. A just ruler uses God's Divine Laws to make His decisions.

Who is it that "Rules" and "Reigns"?

People living in some of the Middle Eastern countries, or who live in England, or Thailand understand what it means to have a person who "rules" and "reigns" over them. These people are Kings and Queens. They have authority, they have dominion, they have territory and they have absolute power over their subjects.
So in conclusion: Jesus is not a Prophet. He is a King (in fact the King of Kings), which has authority to rule and make judgements over all Muslims, to rule and reign over them here on this earth, when He returns with His Bride. I am not saying this as the author of this book. Your own Quran states this!!
In a similar manner, it does not matter if you believe Buddha was the "enlightened one" or not. Buddha himself said that there will be one who comes after him who is God. His followers, believing this would happen shortly after Buddha's death, asked him how they should recognise God. Buddha replied: **"You shall recognise Him by His hands and His feet"**; a clear reference to Jesus Christ and the wounds which are displayed after the cross.

IN CONCLUSION: It does not matter who you believe in, or what "religion" you belong to. If you do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Most High God and that He came down to earth and went to the cross for the forgiveness of your sins, and He now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, continually interceding for us, then there is absolutely no way you will ever enter Heaven.
YOU ARE MOST CERTAINLY GOING TO HELL!!!

WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT HELL?

Some pastors & scholars deny that hell exists. Others say that God, in His great mercy, would not allow people to end up in hell, and would ultimately save all of mankind, so what does Jesus say about Hell?

Matthew 10:37-39; Matthew 13:40-43; Matthew 8:12 are three specific references made by Jesus to hell, so let us look at each of them.

Matthew 10:37-39 says: *Whosoever loves father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me; and whosoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whosoever does not take up their cross (daily) and follow me is not worthy of me. He who is concerned about his life shall lose it; and he who loses his life for my sake, shall find it.*

Jesus makes it very clear that if you do not follow His ways you will lose your life. You only lose your life if you are in hell, because in heaven you have eternal life.

Matthew 13:40-43 says: *Therefore, just as the tares are picked out and burned in the fire; so shall it be at the end of the world. The Son of Man (Jesus Christ) will send His angels; and they will pick out from His kingdom all things which cause stumbling and all workers of iniquity. And they will throw them into the furnace of fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous shall shine as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears let him hear.*

There is no ambiguity in these verses; wrongdoers are likened to weeds (tares) which are pulled out and fed to the fiery furnace (hell). Once the separation of the unrighteous has be made from the righteous ones, then the righteous ones will shine like the noonday sun in the kingdom of their Father. What is God's Kingdom? Heaven!

Matthew 8:11-12 says: *But many will come from the east and the west; and sit down with Abraham and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

God confirms His message in two or three scriptures. These three scriptures clearly confirm that Hell is a place, and that many people are going to end up there and it will cause them to weep and to gnash their teeth.

In Luke 16:19-31 Jesus tells the story of the rich man and Lazarus. In hell the wicked continually suffer, are fully conscious, retaining their desires, their memories and their reasoning. They long for relief, but cannot be comforted they cannot leave their torment and are bereft of all hope.

Jesus makes it very clear in Matthew 25:46; Hell is everlasting. The unrighteous will go to eternal punishment (in hell), whilst the righteous will go to eternal life, firstly in the existing heaven, then onto the existing earth to rule and reign with Jesus for 1,000 years, then to live on the New Earth for eternity, with Jesus, God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

What an awesome place that will be, and we should be all so excited to tell others about this promise of eternal life that they will want to share it with us and their families also.

EARTH: THE IN-BETWEEN WORLD

Do you realise that the earth is the closest that people (who are going to hell) will ever get to Heaven?
Similarly, do you realise that life here on this earth, is the closest that people (who are going to heaven) will ever get to hell?
This example seems so simple, as a truth statement, but the ramifications of these two statements are life-changing ~ with eternal results. This is why it is so important for pastors, evangelists, and bible scholars, to be speaking more about Heaven and Hell and what will allow us to get to heaven and what will prevent us living in hell.
There are only two alternatives: Heaven or Hell. It does not matter what denomination, or religion you belong to; it is still the same: heaven or hell!!!

CAN YOU KNOW (FOR SURE) THAT YOU ARE GOING TO HEAVEN?

In ancient times, each city had a roll listing the names of the local residents, and they had guards on the entrance gates, so that they could make sure that criminals and enemies of the city could not enter. That was how "ancient cities" were protected.
The Book of Revelation refers to a scroll of all those people who are eligible to enter through the gates into the "city of heaven". The scroll is called the "Lamb's Book of Life" and in Revelations chapter 21, verse 27 this is made perfectly clear. "Nothing impure will ever enter [this city], nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, ***but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.***
Now we get to the tricky bit, because many Christians believe that **"once saved"** means **"always saved"**; but unfortunately that is not what the Scriptures tell us.
In chapter 3 of the Book of Revelations, we have these words: "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; *these things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works that thou hast a name that thou live, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis* ***which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.*** *He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and* ***I will not blot out his name out of the book of life****, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches".*

As Jesus is speaking and Apostle John is recording these words Jesus makes it very clear that **"once saved"** is not a guarantee of **"always being saved"**. Churches today need to get this revelation and teach that **salvation is a process;**

- ***I was saved***, when I confessed my sins, was baptised and promised to change my ways.
- ***I am being saved*** as I continue my daily life, honouring Jesus in each and everything I do, and asking for forgiveness when I do things which do not bring glory and honour to Jesus.
- ***I will be saved*** when Jesus comes for His bride, (provided my name is still written in the Lamb's Book of Life).

We are told to keep short accounts with Jesus and this is the reason why. Jesus is coming back for a "bride without blemish." If there is sin in our lives, which requires Jesus to make this momentous decision, to remove our names from the Lamb's Book of Life, then we are in for a surprise, because we, (like the church in Sardis) think everything is OK and that we are going to heaven, but unfortunately for some of us that will not necessarily be the case.

Sardis (the church type) began in 1520 AD and extends into the tribulation period. This period covers the Reformation (with its dead, lukewarm churches) and is presently part of the Laodicean period as well.

The reason for the deadness is that, during the Reformation, entire countries became Protestant, without being taught about becoming "born again".

Protestantism was made the state religion, and was freely embraced by millions, who did not know what it meant to become new creations in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17). Thus Sardis became the mother of dead orthodoxy [Dead Churches]. The theme song of this type of church is not ***"Standing on the Promises"***, but ***"Sleeping on the Premises"***.

Her members were/are dead. God please help us to have life, because many churches are following Sardis' lead today.

This is the reason why millions of people are leaving the "liberal churches" for good, because they are old fashioned, gospel-preaching lighthouses, with little or no anointing. **It is the Holy Ghost anointing which breaks the yoke of sin.**

God has called for the fivefold ministry package to be reinstated within the Body of Christ, so that the dead churches can be revived, so that people may be transformed, by the continual renewing of their spirits, souls and bodies. So, from reading these few lines we see that many within the church think that they are going to heaven, but are not, because they failed to understand the scriptures which clearly tell them:

- That they must be born again.
- That they must remember the teaching that they have heard.
- That they must hold fast to the calling that God has placed upon their lives.

- That they must repent, not just as individuals, but the whole church movement.
- The Reformation churches need to turn back to Christ, seeking His will and His Spirit's teachings, rather than man-made ideas about theological truths.
- They have to come to realise that God's Word is unchanging and that it is only the Holy Spirit which reveals "All truth" to the believers.
- Churches that believe that the Holy Spirit is not for today therefore have a problem, because Acts 2:38 clearly says repent, be baptised and receive the Holy Spirit.
- If you don't have the Holy Spirit, then you cannot have salvation – because they are in the same verse of scripture. Where there is no salvation there is no way of entering into heaven.
- One of the areas of truth that the Reformation church failed to teach and to proclaim was the return of Jesus Christ to claim His bride. Therefore, the Lord said that this event would catch them unawares: *Thou shall not know the hour I will come upon thee.*
- It is no wonder we hear many preachers say that no-one can understand the Book of Revelation, with all of its deep mysteries, symbolisms, and word pictures.
- Jesus had such preachers and layman in mind when He told Apostle John: *Awake you people who are asleep! … And Christ shall raise you from the dead* (that is – spiritual death).
- But among the spiritual deadness within Sardis, there are still a few saints who can wiggle spiritually.

Revelation Chapter 3 verse 4: *There are a few names, even in Sardis, which have not defiled their garments: and they shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy.*

- Though the Reformation churches, like the mother from which they came, did not practise holiness unto the Lord, there were individuals who did not defile their garments in compromise with the world, the flesh, and the devil. They came *out from among them and touched not any unclean thing* [2 Corinthians 6:17].
- As a result of their continued holiness, they have been promised the reward of being clothed in the Bride's garments.

Verse 5: *He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; <u>and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life,</u> but I will confess His name before My Father, and before His angels.*

- The white raiment referred to here, is found upon the Bride of Christ at the marriage supper of the Lamb, as indicated in Revelation 19:7-8:

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean (without blemish) *and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.*

- Therefore, those who possess a genuine salvation, that is - people who have been born again, and continue to live in holiness, until being called home to be with Jesus, have been guaranteed that their individual names shall not be blotted out from the Lamb's Book of Life.
- This is why we need to listen and hear what the Holy Spirit is continually saying to the churches.
- Therefore, those who have an ear; let them hear what the Spirit is saying to YOUR own particular church. What does God want you to do, as the pastor of your church, to make sure that your congregation members do not fall into the trap of the church of Sardis?

This inscription was found on a tombstone over one hundred years ago:

Pause, stranger, when you pass me by.
As you are, so once was I,
As I now am, so you will be,
So prepare for death and follow me.

Underneath somebody had scribbled these extra words:

To follow you I am not content, until I know which way you went!

This is the ultimate challenge. Do you know (really know for sure), that you are really going to heaven? The only real way to know for sure is to follow the instructions given by Apostle Peter in Acts 2:38 where he told the crowd to:

- Repent of their sins
- Be baptised (by immersion baptism)
- Receive the Holy Spirit

The repenting of sins is not a "once off" event, but is a continual daily requirement, to make sure that at all times you are seen as being holy before God, because we are told to *"be holy as He is holy".*

To receive the Holy Spirit is a very special thing, because it takes faith to receive something from God that you did not ask for. To find out more about this, please read my previous book entitled: ***The Gifts, Administrations and Offices of the Holy Spirit***, which can be free of charge from www.facebook.com/cammbooks, by sending a request email, with this title to nlmcs00@gmail.com. These are the items that a Christian needs, to follow God's road map, which is found throughout the scriptures, to reach the place called heaven.

It is no use just getting to a car and driving down the road, hoping that the road leads to the place we want to go to. No, you need to have a map, or nowadays a GPS, [**G**od's **P**ositioning **S**ystem] to direct you to the selected destination.
So it is with the route to heaven, we need a carefully marked out path, which we already know has a narrow gate, and this narrow path is through Jesus Christ. John 14:6 makes it very clear: "*I am the way, the truth and the life, no man (or woman) comes to the Father, <u>except through Me</u>."*

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE PRESENT (EXISTING) HEAVEN?

Well, so far we have established that Jesus makes it very clear that there is a Heaven and a Hell, but still many Christians do not understand what happens when we die (sleep).

- What happens to our bodies?
- What happens to our Spirits?

These are not new questions. People were asking these same questions at the time of Jesus Christ and Apostle Paul.
In 1 Thessalonians 4:13 Paul writes these words: *Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, (die) or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope (unbelievers).*
Paul explains that if we are alive when Jesus Christ comes back to claim His bride, we will be "caught up" together with them (who have already died) in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And we will live with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one and other with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18. Because we have all had friends or relatives, who have died, (and maybe we will also die before Christ returns) we need to clearly understand what the scriptures tell us, about the "existing heaven".
We must understand that even at this stage, when we have risen to meet Jesus in the clouds, we are still not the Bride of Christ. It is true that we are the "betrothed" (espoused) of Christ. We are "engaged" to Him – but the marriage ceremony has still not taken place. This will not occur until the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.
After this wonderful event takes place and we (collectively & individually) become the Bride of Christ, we will then come back to this existing earth for our honeymoon – which will last for 1,000 years.
This is a time of transition for the believer, because now, (with a newly redeemed and resurrected body), we will start to learn what was required by God Almighty, when He told "king" Adam that he was to have dominion over the earth and all the things that abide there.
We will start to undertake the role and responsibilities that were given to Adam before the fall and the subsequent curses which fell not only upon mankind, but upon the earth and the whole universe.

With Christ's ascension to be seated with His Father in the existing heaven, the curse of sin was broken, and now it is true the kingdom is come down upon the earth and the kingdom is within you.
We, as mankind (all tribes, nations, and tongues) have been redeemed and restored to a place whereby we are able to take up the reins, which were lost by Adam at the fall and start to rule and reign over the earth – to "take dominion of the earth".

THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF THE "PRESENT" HEAVEN

I make the statement that the "present" heaven is only temporary. It will pass away, as described in scripture, and God will make a new heaven (out of the existing one), which will not be subjected to any of the flaws which were the result of the curse of sin.
To state that we will be permanently with Jesus is correct and we will be joyful in that state, but we will have an earnest desire to return to the New Earth?
To make this perfectly clear: *When we die, believers in Christ will NOT GO to a heaven, where we will live forever.*
Instead, we will go to the "present" heaven – where those who have already died and are covered by the blood of Jesus Christ are now; waiting for the day of Christ's return to the earth, their bodily resurrection and final judgement, and the creation of the New Heavens and the New Earth.
If we fail to grasp this explanation, then we fail to understand the biblical doctrine of Heaven. We must understand that the Heaven that now exists will be no more, and we will be living on a newly created Heaven and Earth, which has no curse of sin, no death, no anger and no Satanic influences.
To get a better understanding of this situation, let me explain a set of circumstances which may make this clearer.
You are living somewhere, maybe without a job, no money and your only hope is in Jesus. You are contacted by a lawyer who tells you that a rich relative has died and left you an enormous fortune, a house and a job, which he knows you are going to love doing.
Arrangements are made for you to fly from your present location to your newly inherited property. On the way to your **FINAL DESTINATION**, you are to make a stopover at **ANOTHER AIRPORT** and change planes.
The stopover airport is not your "final destination", it is just a means to connecting you to your final destination.
In the same way, the "present" heaven is a stopping over point until the final journey takes place, to the final destination that God has already made ready for you – a mansion in His Father's house – your inheritance.
What many people fail to realise is that the mansion that God has prepared for you is not in some mystical place, but it is back here on a newly reconstructed, newly renovated earth, a place which resembles the earth on which Adam lived before His fall.

Why are we back here? To fulfil the many scriptures about receiving our inheritance (land) and for us to rule and reign as joint-heirs with Jesus Christ, over towns, cities, tribes and nations, to fulfil the tasks and responsibilities firstly given to Adam which unfortunately, he failed to achieve.

DOES HEAVEN REALLY CHANGE?

Firstly back to Theology 101. God existed before the creation of the universe, before the creation of the worlds, before the creation of heaven and earth. Before time - God was. Gen. 1:1 – *In the beginning God…* God does not have to live in heaven. It is just a place He has chosen to live at the moment. It is a place where created beings (angels) come and go.
It is a place where people who have died wait for the day when Jesus comes back to call them to Himself. It is a place where the martyrs live and cry out to Jesus, asking Him when is He coming back to earth to avenge those who took their lives in the name of Jesus Christ. These are all finite beings and heaven is also a finite place. Why do I say this?
God created heaven, as He did those other beings mentioned above, so it has a start date. It is a place that Jesus left, and He came down to earth, where He suffered and died, was resurrected, and went back to heaven again to be seated at the right hand of the Father.
It has a present, where believers who have died go, (since Christ's ascension) to live and wait for Jesus' return, (where they will have a bodily resurrection), and it will have a finish date as described in scripture, when the existing heaven will be replaced by the "eternal heaven", a place which will have no end. We need to fully understand that Heaven will change. It will get better than it is already, and we all should be so excited about that.

DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE EXISTING HEAVEN AND THE NEW HEAVEN

If I asked you two questions: **"What is Heaven like"?** and **"What will the future Heaven be like"?** I would have to give you two different, very specific answers.

1. *What is Heaven Like?* The present (existing) Heaven is in the **Angelic realm**, distinctly separate from this Earth (even though it has physical properties)
2. *The future Heaven* will be in the **Human realm**, on the New Earth. The new dwelling place of God will also be the new dwelling place of humanity, in a newly resurrected universe.

*"I saw a new heaven and a new earth ….. I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God …. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "**Now the dwelling place of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God".*** **(Rev. 21:1-3)**
We need to clearly understand that "Heaven", God's dwelling place, will one day be on the New Earth. It is important to notice that the New Jerusalem, which came down from Heaven, comes down to the New Earth. From that time onwards, the "dwelling place of God" will no longer be in the existing heaven, but with a redeemed mankind, on the New Earth. God will become "Emmanuel". He has come to dwell amongst us for eternity.
Therefore, if the dwelling place of God in now to be on the New Earth, then the name of New Heaven and the name of the New Earth are interchangeable. This fulfils the scriptures which shows that there was separation between earth and heaven, after sin entered the existing earth.
Once this sin is removed, the new earth is redeemed God can now come down and dwell amongst His redeemed people. This fits His original plan for Adam and Eve. God could have taken Adam and Eve up to heaven to visit with Him, but He chose to come down to them each day and visit with them in the Garden of Eden, *in their world*, *in a world He made for them* (Gen. 3:8)
Jesus also confirms this for His disciples: "My Father will love him, and we will come and make our home with him". (John 14:23). Here we have a clear picture of God's ultimate plan; not to take us up to Himself, into a realm made for Him, but to come down and live with us, ***in a realm He made for us.*** We will be a resurrected people, living on a resurrected, redeemed earth for eternity, with God the Father (our Father-in-law) and Jesus our husband. That's exciting!!!

DO WE REMAIN CONSCIOUS AFTER DEATH?

When we die, what happens? At death there is a separation. The physical part of our bodies returns to the dust from whence it came. "*The dust returns to the ground from whence it came". (Ecclesiastes 12:7)* The spirit part of man, (the spirit-man) goes to either Heaven or Hell. There is no third alternative, you go to either Heaven or Hell – take it or leave it!!!
Jesus Christ depicted Lazarus and the rich man as being fully conscious in Heaven and Hell, immediately after they died. Let us look at this story in the Gospel of Luke chapter 16 from verse 19. "*There was a rich man who used to wear purple and fine linen and every day he made merry lavishly. And there was a poor man named Lazarus, who lay down at the rich man's door, afflicted with boils; He longed to fill his stomach with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table; the dogs also came and licked his boils. Now it happened that the poor man died, and the angels came and carried him into Abraham's bosom (heaven); and the rich man also died and was buried. And while he was tormented in Sheol (Hell), he lifted up his eyes from a distance*

and saw Abraham with Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out in a loud voice saying "oh my father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and wet my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame". Abraham replied to him; "My son, remember you received your pleasures when you were living, and Lazarus his hardships; and behold now he is comfortable here, and you are suffering. Besides all these things, there is a great gulf fixed between us and you; so that those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot do so; neither can you cross over to us."

Notice a few things in the story told by Jesus:

1. Our physical bodies decay and go back to dust, but our spirits are fully conscious of where we are and we can feel pain and thirst.
2. We are able to see into the existing Heaven (from Hell) and we can communicate with the people who are in Heaven and they can communicate back to the people in Hell.
3. But they cannot go to each other, because of the great gulf which separates Heaven and Hell.

One of the greatest joys in this story is that we will once again be reunited with our loved ones and our friends, who have died and gone on before us; gone to be with Abraham in the existing Heaven.

One of the saddest realisations from this story, is that we will be able to see all those people who failed to be accepted into Heaven and have gone to Hell, to be tormented forever in the flames, who will not burn, but will forever feel the pain and torture, for their denial of accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour, who did not have their names recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life, or because of their wrongdoing had to have their names removed from the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev. 3:5)

For all the Muslims reading this book this a clear warning; you don't get to have 72 virgins in Heaven, if you murder innocent women and children in a terrorist attack. Like the rich man you will be in Hell, suffering continual pain and torment and eternally separated from God. There is no chance to change your mind, or your destination after death. Each person will have to give an account of his/her life here on earth - and the outcome will result in either Heaven or Hell.

WILL WE BE JUDGED WHEN WE DIE?

When we die, we will face judgement, and there is absolutely no way of escaping this judgement. It is called the **Judgement of Faith.** The outcome of this judgement determines whether we go to the existing Heaven or Hell. ***This initial judgement depends on our faith – not on our works***.

It is not about what we have done during our lives, but what Jesus Christ has done for us. If we have accepted Jesus Christ as our personal saviour, and we believe that Jesus Christ went to the cross and atoned for our sins, then when the Father judges us after we die, **He sees the Son's sacrifice for us** – not our sins, because our sins are covered by the blood of Jesus.
Salvation is a free gift, and we can contribute absolutely nothing! Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:5). This first judgement is not to be confused with the final judgement, which is a judgement of our works and of our lifestyles. ***Both believers and unbelievers must face a final judgement***.
The Bible is very clear; all believers must stand before the judgement seat of Jesus Christ and give an account of their lives. (Romans 14:10-12, and 2 Corinthians 5:10). It is critical to understand that this judgement is of our works, not our faith. (1 Corinthians 3:13-14).
As Christians, our works do not affect our salvation, ***but it does affect our reward.*** Rewards are about our work(s) for God, empowered by His Holy Spirit. Our rewards are conditional and dependent upon our faithfulness.
[Refer 2 Timothy 2:12, Revelations 2:26-28 and 3:21.] Our faithfulness will determine our obedience to His Word, to hear and obey the directions of His Holy Spirit, to the seeds we have planted in people's hearts, and/or the harvest we have reaped for God's Kingdom.
Unbelievers face a final judgement of works as well. Nobody escapes judgement before God. This judgement called the Great White Throne Judgement is where every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This will take place just before the beginning of the New Earth. (Revelations 20:11-13)

IS THE PRESENT HEAVEN PART OF OUR UNIVERSE OR ANOTHER?

There are several references in the scriptures that indicate that people on earth are allowed to see into heaven and witness what is going on there. There are many stories of people who have died, who went into Heaven, even some talked to Jesus; but they were then returned to earth, so that they could finish the task that Jesus had set before them.
When Steven was being stoned to death the Bible recounts his experience this way. *Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up into Heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look"* he said *"I see heaven opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God".* (Acts 7:55-56).
God allowed Stephen's eyes to be opened to see a physical dimension which exists within our universe, but it is hidden from most people's eyes upon this earth. Some people may have difficulty with this concept, so let me ask you this question.
Do you believe that wind exists? [Yes] Can you see it? [No] But you can see the results of its presence amongst us.

You can see the trees bend over (and sometimes break) under the force of the wind. You feel its presence upon your face, but you cannot see it, but you definitely know that it is there, because of the five senses that God has given all of us. For some people, the Holy Spirit opens another sense portal, which opens our spiritual eyes to see into a realm, even be physically present in this realm, where most people never go.

So it is with heaven and the glory of God. Unless God specifically allows you to see it, it remains hidden. However, we have had situations when the Glory of God has come down from Heaven and been present in our church meetings.

People have been uplifted to new heights in their spiritual walk with Christ; people have been miraculously healed of terminal diseases. It is only at special times that God allows us to see into another part of His creation, from earth, before our appointed time.

In the Old Testament, Elisha the prophet asked God to give his servant Gehazi a glimpse into the invisible realm, so that he could be able to see the host of warring angels which were surrounding them, to protect them from their enemies. Elisha prayed: *"O Lord, open his eyes that he may see".* Then the Lord opened Gehazi's eyes and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots (filled with angelic warriors) around Elisha. (2 Kings 6:17)

This means that angelic beings can continually travel between the heavenly realm and our earthly realm, but remain invisible to us (most of the time).

It is only on special occasions that God opens our eyes to see what is really happening all around us. As intercessors and believers, we need to pray that the Lord opens our eyes to see into His kingdom and understand what is going on in the spirit realm, not only by His Spirit, but through our own "spiritual eyes".

We need to get the revelation and ask the Lord to allow us to see things (in the Spirit realm) ***as God already sees them***. When this happens, the existing heaven becomes a part of our own earthly realm. In the Book of Hebrews, we are told that earthly priests "serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of the tabernacle that is in Heaven". (Hebrews 8:5)

Although they are physically separate, they are connected through the Spirit of God, which opens them to us.

IS THE PRESENT HEAVEN A PHYSICAL PLACE?

We have been talking so far about the existing Heaven, as if it was a physical place, but are there scriptural verses to back up this assumption? Many people believe that God is a Spirit; hence where He dwells must also be a "spiritual place". But because God is a Spirit, does not necessarily mean that God ***has to*** dwell in a spiritual place. God created the heavens, He also created the earth. They are both physical places and the secret is to realise that God, as a Spirit, can dwell in the Heavens, or on the Earth, or move between the two, ***or live in both simultaneously.***

We know that angels live in heaven, but we also know that they can also live here on earth, because there are many references to this fact in the scriptures, where angels came to visit specific people in the Bible, down here on earth.

- Three angels came to visit Abraham before they went off to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. (Genesis 18:1)
- The angel came three times to visit the wife of Manoah, to tell her how she must live her life, until her son (Samson) was to be born. (Judges chapter 13)
- And the Ark Angel Gabriel came to visit Zachariah whilst He was ministering in the Temple, to tell him he was going to have a son and his name would be called John (the Baptist) (Luke 1:11-13)
- And 6 months later Ark Angel Gabriel again appeared on the earth, to visit Mary, to tell her that she was favoured before God and that she would give birth as a virgin, bearing Jesus, the saviour of the world. (Luke 1:26-33)
- An angel came and ministered to Jesus in the garden prior to His capture and torture on the cross. (22:43)
- An angel met Saul on the road to Damascus, changing His life forever. (9:3-9)
- And an Angel visited Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos and dictated to him the Book of Revelation.

In several of these cases, the angel was in fact the ***Angel of the Lord***, the "spiritual form" of Jesus Christ Himself.

On the reverse side of the coin, we know that people have been taken up "into the heavens", where they have seen what is going on in Heaven, and have come back to earth to recount what they saw. This proves that Heaven is a physical place, because we (humans) can exist there in our physical bodies. Consider the following:

- The existing heaven is filled with smoke from the glory of God (Revelations 15:8)
- We are told that there are scrolls in Heaven, elders who have faces, martyrs who wear clothes, people with palm branches in their hands. (Revelations 7:9)
- There are musical instruments in Heaven. (Revelations 8:6)
- Horses travelling in and out of Heaven (2 Kings 2:11, Revelations 19:14) and
- Even an eagle flying overhead in Heaven. (Revelations 8:13)
- During the crucifixion, Jesus told the robber by His side on the cross: ***"Today you will be with me in paradise"*** (Luke 23:43).

The word "*paradise"* comes from the Persian word "pairidaeza" meaning a walled garden, or an enclosed garden. It was used to describe the great walled garden of the Persian King Cyrus's royal palaces.
In the Septuagint (The Greek translation of the Old Testament) the Greek word for paradise was used to describe the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 2:8, Ezekiel 28:13).
Later, because the Jewish believed that God will once again restore the Garden of Eden, the word for paradise became the word used to describe eternal righteousness, and to a lesser extent, the existing heaven. This is a garden under mankind's dominion and control, not a garden that is out of control, or a wild garden with no maintenance.
Paradise is a place where God and mankind live together, surrounded by physical beauty, enjoying great pleasures and happiness. God says: "*To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the paradise of God" (*Revelations 2:7)
This same Tree of Life, which was in the Garden of Eden and is presently in the existing Heaven, will one day be in the New Jerusalem, when it descends down from the New Heaven and dwells on the New Earth. (Revelations 22:2). These are all physical encounters and we are told that scripture is confirmed by two or three references.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS?

In the New Testament account of the rich man and Lazarus, Jesus ascribes physical properties to people who have died. (Luke 16:19-31): There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who lived in luxury every day. At this rich man's entrance gate lay a beggar whose name was Lazarus, who was covered in sores who was so hungry that he longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. He was so weak that even the dogs came and licked the puss off his sores.
The time came when the beggar died and the angels came down and carried him up into heaven to be at Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried in Hell, where he was in continual torment; he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with the beggar Lazarus by his side.
So the rich man cried out: "Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire". But Abraham replied: "Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now (the situation is reversed) he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between you and us, a great chasm has been established so that those who want to go from here to you cannot do so, nor can anyone cross over from where you are to us."
Then the rich man answered: "Then I beg you father, send Lazarus to my father's house, (back on earth), for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment." Abraham replied to

him: ***"They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them".*** "No, father Abraham", replied the rich man, "but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent". Father Abraham replied: "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced, even if someone rises from the dead and speaks to them". What can we deduce from this story told by Jesus Himself?

- When we die we go either to Heaven or Hell.
- When Lazarus died angels came and took him to Paradise, where he is with Abraham (and we believe many others)
- When the rich man died he went to Hell and experienced physical pain and torment in isolation – as no one else is mentioned.
- It is possible to see into Heaven from Hell and vice versa.
- People maintain their physical identities, thus allowing the rich man to identify Lazarus from his physical characteristics.
- The rich man had a tongue and a thirst – both physical properties.
- It is possible to communicate between Heaven and Hell and vice versa.
- There is a chasm between these two physical places, which prevents people from travelling from one place to the other. That is why this is called ***"eternal separation from God"***, when people are sent to Hell.
- The rich man remembers and may have been able to see his five brothers back on earth. That is why he expressed concern for their welfare, asking Abraham to send Lazarus back to earth, to warn them of the consequences of their actions upon the earth. This clearly shows that the rich man has a consciousness even after his death and while he is in Hell.
- It also shows that people upon this earth must listen to the accounts of Abraham, Moses and the Prophets, and make their lives worthy of entering into Heaven – not Hell.

This is why, in these last days, it is so important to have the 5-fold ministries operating within the Body of Christ, so that the latest Holy Spirit news is made known to the Body of Christ, through the **"Office of the Prophet"** [God's mouthpiece], so that the instructions of Ephesians 4:11-16 can be fulfilled in us all, as individuals, collectively in each congregation, and corporately as the Body of Christ.

WHAT IS LIFE LIKE IN THE PRESENT HEAVEN?

For some people this is one of the hardest things to imagine. But let us examine some verses of scriptures which give us clear insights into what life is like in the Present Heaven.

In Revelation chapter 5, the elders and the angels proclaim that the Lamb of God (Jesus Christ) is the only one worthy to open the scroll with the seven seals upon it.

In Revelation chapter 6, the Lamb of God commences to open the seals which are upon the outside of the Scroll, which contains the names of the saints.

Chapter 6, commencing at verse 1: *"I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four animals saying in a loud voice as of thunder. "Come and see". And I looked and beheld a white horse, and he who sat upon him had a bow, and a crown was given to him; and he went forth conquering, and to conquer*[8]*.*

And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second animal say: "Come and see". And there went out another horse, and it was red, and to him who sat upon it was given power to take away peace from the earth, that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

And when He opened the third seal, I heard the third animal say; "Come and see". And behold I saw a black horse; and he who sat upon him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four animals say; A measure of wheat for a penny and three measures of barley for a penny; and see that you do not damage the oil and the wine.

And when He opened the fourth seal, I heard the fourth animal say: "Come and see". And I looked and beheld a (pale) green horse; and the name of him who sat upon him was Death and Sheol (Hell) followed after him. And power was given him over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine, and with death, and with wild beasts of the earth.

So when we look at the first four seals, we see that there are animals in Heaven, and these horses and their riders can enter and leave heaven, and travel all over the earth to inflict God's judgement upon the earth, and the people who are remaining here at that time.

And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar, the souls of those who had been slain for the sake of the Word of God, and for the testimony of the Lamb which they had given.

Firstly, there is an altar in the present heaven and underneath it sits the martyrs. These are the martyrs, who were slain for the gospel of Jesus Christ over the ages, commencing with Stephen and continuing on throughout the ages, until Christ appears in the clouds to take us to Himself.

*And they (*the martyrs) *cried with a loud voice saying; How long O Lord, holy and true, does thou not judge and avenge our blood on these who dwell on the earth? And a white robe was given to every one of them; and it was said to them that they should rest yet for a little while, until the time should be fulfilled, when their brethren should be killed also, as they had been.*

Please note that even at the time of Jesus opening the fifth seal upon the scroll, that there will still be some people who will be killed (martyred) for the sake of the Gospel, and Jesus tells the martyrs to wait patiently, ***until the last drop of martyrs' blood is spilled, in support of the Gospel***, **then His judgement will come upon the earth**.

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[8] Beware! The first person riding a white horse is NOT Jesus Christ ~~ **it is the counterfeit**. Jesus does not appear on a white horse until Revelation chapter 19.

So we have animals in heaven, we have angels in heaven, we have an altar in heaven, we have the Father, who sits upon the throne, and we have His Son, the Lamb of God, who is worthy to open the scroll with the seven seals. We have the martyrs, who are able to look down from heaven to the earth and who are also able to communicate directly with Jesus and ask questions and receive His answers.

So our present Heaven is a place of living, breathing people, who have gone there before us. But we must remember it is not our final dwelling place. So, what can we deduce from what we have read so far in these scriptures:

1. When these people died, they were relocated to heaven; they passed the Faith Judgement Test (verse 9)
2. These people in Heaven are the same people who were killed as martyrs on Earth for the name of Jesus Christ (verse 9). This clearly indicates there is direct continuity of our lives and our identities on Earth and in Heaven. These are in fact the same people, who were on the Earth, who are "righteous men made perfect" (Hebrews 12:23)
3. The people in Heaven are remembered for their work and testimonies of what they did here on Earth. The martyr's personal history extends directly back to their lives here on the Earth, "because of …. The testimony they had maintained". (verse 9)
4. "They called out" (verse 10) means that they have a physical voice box, and that they are able to express themselves in an audible voice. This clearly suggests that they have a physical form, with vocal cords and other means of being able to express themselves; even being able to sit under the altar close to God Almighty.
5. People in Heaven can raise their voices (verse 10) this means that they rational, communicative and emotional, even to the extent of being passionate about their deeds upon this earth, and the misdeeds of others. They act just like people here on the Earth.
6. They called out in "a loud voice" (singular) not "loud voices". Individual saints speaking with "one voice", clearly indicates that Heaven is a place of unity, shared desires, needs and perspectives. This is different to people here on Earth, where people rarely speak "with one voice" – in unity. That is why it is so important for the Body of Christ to continually pray for God's unity within the individual congregations, because where there is unity of God's purposes, God commands a blessing.
7. The martyrs are fully conscious, rational, and aware of each other, they are also aware of God and the situations here on Earth.

8. They ask God to intervene on Earth, and to act on their behalf: "How long must we wait…. until you judge the inhabitants of the Earth, and avenge our blood? (verse 10)
9. Those in Heaven are free to ask God questions, which means they have an audience with God. It also means that they need to learn additional information that they did not understand when they were on this Earth. In Heaven, people will desire full understanding and they will pursue it.
10. People in Heaven know what is happening on this present Earth (verse 10) the martyrs know enough to realise that the people who were responsible for their deaths have not yet been judged.
11. Heaven dwellers have a deep concern for righteousness, justice and retribution. (verse 10) When we go to Heaven, we won't adopt a passive disinterest in what happens on the Earth. On the contrary, we will be more passionate in our quest for greater justice. Neither God nor those in Heaven will be satisfied until his enemies are judged, our bodies raised, sin and Satan defeated (permanently) Earth restored, and Jesus Christ exalted above all.
12. The martyrs clearly remember their individual lives on the Earth (verse 10) they even remember that they were murdered.
13. The martyrs in Heaven pray for judgement on their persecutors, who are still at work hurting others. They are acting in solidarity with, and are in fact interceding for the suffering saints upon the Earth. This means that saints in Heaven are both seeing and praying for saints upon this Earth.
14. The saints in Heaven see God's attributes ("Sovereign… holy and true") which makes His judgement of sin more understandable.
15. Those in Heaven are distinct individuals: "Then <u>each of them</u> was given a white robe" (verse 11) this isn't a "merged identity" that obliterates uniqueness, but a clear reference to distinct individual characters. ("each of them")
16. The martyr's wearing white robes suggests a physical form, because spirits don't wear robes. The martyrs appear to have physical forms that Apostle John could actually see.
17. God answers their questions (verse 11) indicating a communication process in Heaven. It also indicates that we won't know everything when we are in Heaven. If we did, there would be no reason to ask God questions. The martyrs understood and knew more after God answered the questions than before they asked them. This clearly indicates a learning process in Heaven.

18. God promises to fulfil the martyr's requests, but they will have to "wait a little longer" (verse 11) those in the present Heaven live in expectation of God's future fulfilment of all of God's promises. Unlike in the eternal Heaven, where there is no more sin, The Curse is broken, no more suffering on the New Earth (Revelations 21:4) The present Heaven co-exists with and watches over our present Earth which is under the Curse, and sin and suffering.
19. There are time limits in the present Heaven – (verses 10-11) the white-robed martyrs ask God a "time-dependent question: "How long, Sovereign Lord must we wait until you judge the inhabitants of the Earth and avenge our blood"? They are aware of time's passing and are eagerly awaiting the day when the Lord will cast down judgement upon the Earth. God's answer that they must "wait a little longer" until certain events happen upon the Earth clearly indicates another passage of time.
20. The people of God in Heaven have a strong familial tie with people on the earth, who are called their "fellow servants and brothers". (verse 11) We share the same "Father", from whom every family in Heaven and on this Earth is named. (Ephesians 3:5) There is not a wall within the Bride of Christ. There is no separation; we are one family with those who have already gone before us into Heaven. After we get to Heaven, we'll still be part of the same one family, with those still alive upon the earth. This one verse clearly demonstrates a vital connection between the people presently in Heaven and people presently on Earth.
21. Our God knows down to the last detail *all that has happened, all that is presently happening, and all that will happen* upon the Earth. (verse 11) including every drop of blood shed for His name and every bit of suffering by His children. The Voice of the Martyrs organisation estimates that more than 150,000 people die for Christ each and every year. This is an average of more than 400 people per day. God Almighty knows the name and the story of each individual one of these martyrs. He also knows how many martyrs there will be, and He is prepared to wait until the last martyr dies, before He returns to earth to set up His kingdom.

These observations from just three verses in Revelations chapter 6 should make us more aware, and want to learn much more about what life in Heaven is presently like, and what a glorious life is promised to all who diligently seek His face.

And I looked when He had opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair; and the

moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell to the earth, even as a fig tree casts its green figs, when it is shaken by a mighty wind. And the heavens separated, as a scroll when it is rolled separately; and every mountain and island shifted from its resting place.

At the opening of the sixth seal there is a mighty commotion in heaven and earthquakes upon the earth, with islands and mountains being shifted and stars falling upon the earth from heaven.

I am sure that this gets everybody's attention, because the scripture confirms this as follows.

And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the commanders of thousands, and the rich men, and the mighty men, and every bond servant, and every freeman hid themselves in caves and in the clefts of the mountain. And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath (anger) of the Lamb; For the great day of His wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?

When this terrible event takes place, everybody upon the earth will be aware of it and be shaking in their boots. It does not matter what your position in society is, nor how much "earthly" authority you have, or how rich you are, all will be trying to hide themselves from the anger of God, which they know is about to befall them. So in conclusion, what do we know?

1. The existing Heaven is a real, physical place.
2. When people die there is a Faith Judgement, which decides whether (in God's eyes) you have accepted Jesus Christ as your saviour and that <u>your name is still written in the Lamb's Book of Life</u>.
3. Based upon this scrutiny, you either go to the existing Heaven or into Hell.
4. People in Heaven, meet other relatives, friends and believers, who have died and gone on to Heaven before them.
5. That there is communion with God in Heaven.
6. People in Heaven can ask questions directly to God and get God's answers.
7. People in Heaven can see into the Earth and into Hell.
8. It is possible to have conversations between Hell and Heaven – but the vast gulf which exists between Heaven and Hell prevents anybody from travelling between these two physical places.
9. At the appointed time (when the last of the martyrs have been slain for the Gospel) Jesus will come back in the clouds, to receive His "betrothed" and take her with Him into Heaven to sit down for the marriage supper of the Lamb and at that ceremony, "the betrothed of Christ", will become "the Bride of Christ".

10. Jesus and His Bride will come back down to this present Earth, for their honeymoon, which will last for 1,000 years, as He establishes His kingdom on this Earth.
11. At the appointed time after this, the White Throne judgement will take place, where every person (both believer and unbeliever) shall have to give an account of their lives (and their works) and any impurities shall be burned off the believer to make them perfect. For the unbeliever they shall be sent into Hell for eternity.
12. Then the existing Heaven and the Existing Earth shall be replaced with a New Heaven and a New Earth.
13. The New Jerusalem shall descend from the New Heaven and rest upon the New Earth. This becomes the new dwelling place of God the Father. This then sets up the scenario for the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, to once again dwell with God's people, as it was in the Garden before the fall. NOW, God becomes Emmanuel, because He is now God dwelling amongst us in all of His forms.

As the martyrs cried out "How long Lord; how long must we wait for your return?" This should be the cry in our hearts each and every day, being ever prepared to meet our maker at a moment's notice, not caught unawares, by the thief in the night.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR THE UNIVERSE

Before "Time" existed God was, and after "Time" has been extinguished, God still shall be.

God Almighty created time, in the same way as He created the universe, by speaking them into existence. God Almighty is the regulator of time and events. He can allow things to happen over millions of years, or "in a twinkling of an eye". God Almighty can stop time, and He can even make it go backwards, "for one quarter of a day".

As humans, mankind takes time and our universe for granted, but time and our universe are not infinite, and both are coming to an end, faster than anyone seems to realise.

We use time as a unit of measure, to determine our history, the years of our lifespan, and even measure the speed of light in units of time [$3*10^8$ metres/second].

But eventually, the earth and the universe, as we know it today will come to an end. Even mankind as we know it today, will come to an end, as God Almighty prepares for the re-creation of the universe. It says in the scriptures that old things shall pass away and a new creation shall be born. Yes, we who are selected to be part of Christ's Bride, shall be transformed and have a new body, which shall never die.

After Jesus reigns on this earth for 1,000 years, it is recorded in scripture that this earth as we know it, and the universe as we know it, shall be destroyed and recreated ~~ but it will be different to what we know today.

The “new earth” will have no seas, and the “new universe” will have no sun, because Jesus will be the light of the new universe, where this is no sin, no death, no sickness, and no wars.

On this new earth there will be a “New Jerusalem”, where God Almighty Himself will abide. It will descend down out of the New Heavens and God will dwell amongst us, just as He did with Adam in the Garden of Eden.

In this new universe there will be no need for time, because this new heaven and new earth will be infinite ~~ they will exist with God, after time has been extinguished.

So, that is what we look forward to, as told to us in the scriptures, in the Book of Daniel, the Book of Ezekiel, by Jesus while He was walking on this earth, and by Jesus as He talked to Apostle John, on the Isle of Patmos, to write down the details which are recorded in the Book of Revelation.

In these writings, as recorded by Apostle John, Jesus identifies His authority, as the author of this book, in Revelation chapter one. In Revelation chapters 2 & 3, Jesus outlines the “good points” and the “bad points” applicable to 7 geographical churches, which are also 7 different church types throughout history.

In each of these assessments of these 7 churches, Jesus finishes each assessment with these words; “He that has an ear (spiritual ear) let him hear what the Spirit (the Holy Spirit) is saying to the churches”.

As we move into 2020, a new decade, maybe now is an appropriate time to look at the 8th church in the Book of Revelation ~~ which is YOUR CHURCH. How does YOUR CHURCH stack up against the 7 churches that Jesus identified to Apostle John?

Can you easily identify the “good points” that Jesus said were acceptable in His ideal church? That is great, because you don’t have to change any of them. But what about the “bad points” that Jesus identified in these churches? Can you honestly ignore them ~ or pretend that they are not there?

The ways of Jesus are higher than our ways, and He does not want us to try and figure out what we have to do to correct these “bad points”. In His wisdom and mercy, He has already told you what you have to do to correct these “bad points”. He even gives you encouragement, by telling you what blessings you will receive if you do correct these “bad points”.

However, we also know that Jesus tells us that there will be punishment for those churches that refuse to correct their “bad points”. I am sure that most Christians do not want to be in this type of church.

Below is an extract from the Bible College Course on the Writings of Apostle John and in particular about these 7 churches. It outlines, in table format, the “good points”, the “bad points”, the promises, if you correct them, and the curses & punishments if you refuse.

This is then followed by a checklist, so that people can do an audit of their own churches, to make sure that they will be part of the Bride of Christ, on this New Earth forever.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Introduction:

With all that is going on in the world today, maybe it is time for the Christian Churches to take a serious look at the seven churches in the Book of Revelation, and make sure that **YOUR CHURCH** is there, and it is alive and well, according to the view of Jesus, not what we think about OUR church.

Before we look at the seven churches themselves, let us try to find out on whose authority the book was written, and for what purpose, and to whom.

The author of the book of Revelation is revealed in Rev. 1:1. It is the divine Word of Jesus Christ Himself, sent down to Apostle John, by an angel, to record it for all time, for us, the churches in Asia and <u>for all churches, of all denominations, in all the countries of the world (for all generations).</u>

The writer was Apostle John and the book is thought to have been written in AD 90-100, some 60 years after the ascension of Jesus Christ our Lord into Heaven. It was written whilst John was in exile on the Isle of Patmos, for continuing to preach the gospel, after he was forbidden, by the laws of that land, at that time to do so.

The Book of Revelation has some very special points, which the serious Bible student must be aware of;

a) The book of Revelation is the only book in the Bible, which contains promises for pastors who read the text of this book aloud in the congregations of the saints.

b) The book of Revelation promises blessings to all people who hear the Word and PUT IT INTO PRACTISE in their individual lives.

c) The number 7 (God's perfect number) is the ruling number in this book. e.g. 7 candlesticks, 7 churches, 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 thunders, 7 vials, 7 spirits, 7 stars, 7 "no mores".

d) The closing chapters of Revelation, contains a striking contrast to the opening chapters of Genesis. Genesis speaks of the creation of the sun, the entrance of sin into the life of man, and into the world, the curse pronounced upon the ground, Satan's triumph in being given authority over all things, on the earth, by man (not by God), and the exclusion of man from the "tree of life".

e) On the other hand, the book of Revelation tells of a place where there will be no need of the sun, (the sun will not shine), all sin will be banished, no more curses upon the earth, because there will be a new earth. Satan shall be overthrown, and admission of men once again to the "tree of life".

We see in Rev. 1:9, the testimony of John, as to why he was in exile, on the Isle of Patmos, banished for preaching the Word of God, the proof of which is Jesus Christ.

I challenge each of the people reading this teaching series and studying the seven churches, to ask yourself the following question:

"If the Government of the country you belong to, or reside in at present, were to issue a new law, forbidding you to preach, proclaim, or believe in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and they boarded up the front doors of the churches, would you still be prepared to proclaim that you are a Christian"?

What if the penalty was banishment from your home to an island somewhere out in the Andaman Sea, or the Pacific or Antarctic Oceans?

Would you, as an individual, be prepared to continue to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, no matter what the consequences to you might be, or what the punishment might entail?

What about all of the "TV Evangelists"? Would you arrange to have "pirate TV stations" set up and still proclaim the Gospel, without fear of persecution and destruction of all your assets? How would you re-act to such a proclamation, if it was issued?

A lot of you have just thought, it will never happen, what a crazy question, it does not concern me, but in each case you will be WRONG, because these questions will define your attitude to Christ and His Word.

We see even though Apostle John was placed into this situation, described above, it does not change his attitude to the Lord, or His teachings, as we see John, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, being borne up into the spiritual realm, to be given divine revelation from the Lord Himself, to record for our later spiritual growth and well-being.

The glorious thing about the book of Revelation is that despite the isolation of John, from the world, by a worldly law, **John is not isolated from God**.

This clearly proves that the Lord cares for and guides His obedient children, wherever they are on this earth, (or even up in the spaceships circling around it) for this is not too difficult for Him.

John hears divine instructions to write down all he sees and hears in a book, just like the instructions given by God to the Old Testament Prophets. John is told to send it to the seven churches, named by the Lord in Asia at that time.

Upon hearing the voice, John turns around to see a being, in the image of the description recorded by Daniel the prophet, in Dan. 7:13-15, and recognizes the Lord Himself.

To make sure that John is not mistaken, in identifying who is talking to Him, we have the verbal confirmation of the vision in Rev. 1:18.

"I AM, living in the eternity of the eternities. I died, but see, I am alive for evermore, and I possess the keys of death and hades (hell)".

Jesus clearly confirms who He is (**I AM**) and then He makes a statement which must be fully understood. Jesus says; ***"I possess the keys of hell".***

Many Christians, who have not studied their Scriptures thoroughly, believe that the keys were given to Peter, but the Lord Himself says in the Book of Revelation, some 60 years after His resurrection, ***"I POSSESS THE KEYS OF HELL AND OF DEATH."***

Does this mean that Jesus gave the keys to Peter and then took them back again? No! He never gave them to Peter in the first place.

The misunderstanding has been because of the translation of the two Greek words 'Petra' and 'Petros'; one Greek word meaning a pebble, (a small stone) and the other meaning giant rock (like the rock of Gibraltar).

Jesus Christ is the Giant rock, whilst Peter is the very small insignificant pebble. I prefer to have my faith for the church built on the giant rock (Christ), not the small insignificant pebble (Peter).

In Rev. 1:20, Jesus explains to John, the various meanings of the symbols he is seeing now that he has been transported into the spiritual realm.

As we commence to study the messages sent to the seven churches, we should also understand the meaning of each of these symbols.

Seven Stars

The seven stars are the seven angels, one assigned to each church identified in the vision. Do you realize that God has appointed a special messenger angel to speak to YOUR church? Do you realize that each church has an individual angel to report to God, the activities of its congregation and to give messages to the church, (via an acceptable receptive vessel, if anyone is attuned by the Holy Spirit) and the church is prepared to listen?

Seven Lampstands

The seven Lampstands are identified as the seven churches, to whom the messages from the Lord were to be sent. This means that your individual church is a lampstand before the Lord. How bright this lampstand shines, depends on the individual candles (the individual Christian brothers and sisters who belong to that church body) whether they are alight, smouldering only, or completely gone out.

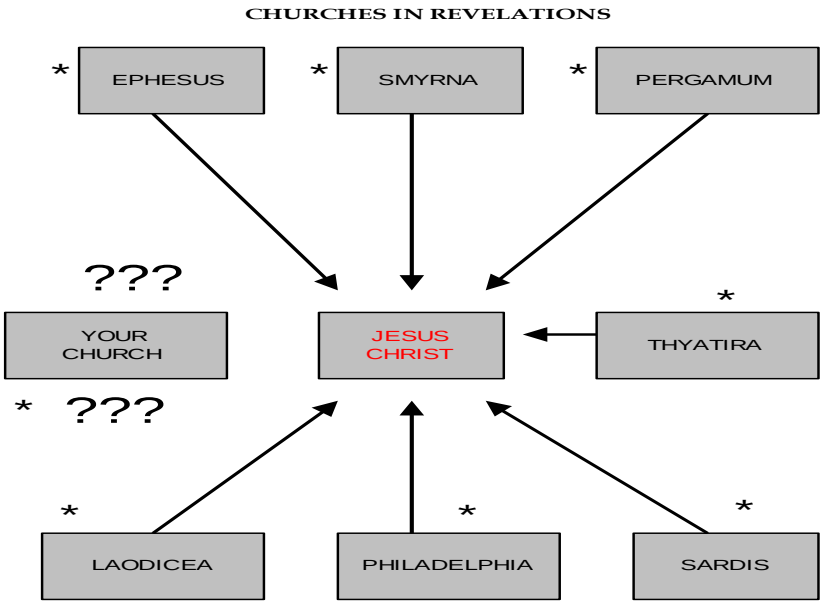
It is interesting to notice in the Scripture of Rev. 1:13 that the image of Jesus is IN THE CENTRE OF THE SEVEN LAMPSTANDS. This means that JESUS IS THE CENTRE OF THEIR ATTENTION.

It is important for us to recognize that JESUS CHRIST SHOULD BE THE CENTRE OF ATTENTION IN OUR CHURCHES ALSO.

The other point to recognize in the placement of the churches around Jesus Christ, as the central figure, is to understand that all their attention is directed towards Him <u>and is not distracted by things of the world, (or things</u>

going on in other churches), but that they concentrate and look directly upon His face.

With Jesus Christ as the central figure, it is more difficult for Satan to get the attention of the believers, because he is BEHIND THEM and that is where Jesus said Satan should always be.



Is your church pointed in the right direction ???

It is recognized by theological scholars today, that the seven churches referred to by Jesus, were not only the seven physical churches referred to by name in the Scriptures, but are also the seven CHURCH TYPES, which would appear and exist throughout the "Age of the Gentiles", prior to Christ's return for His chosen people. We MUST be AWARE that these church types COULD and DO EXIST TODAY.

You will see in the previous diagram that I have added an extra angel and an extra church and called it "YOUR CHURCH".

During this chapter, we will examine each of the church messages and then I will leave it up to yourself (and God) to allocate the score for your church, wherever you are.

Remember you may be able to fool me, or somebody else with your score, but you can't fool God with it, so I urge you to take this matter very seriously, as we now look at the first church, the Church of Ephesus.(reference Rev. 2:1-7)

CHURCH AT EPHESUS
GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	GOOD POINT FOUND BY JESUS
1	INDUSTRY
2	ACTIVITIES
3	LABORIOUS TOIL
4	PATIENT ENDURANCE
5	NO CORRUPT MEN
6	TEST ALL TEACHINGS
7	PROCLAIM CHRIST ALWAYS
8	HATE THE NICOLAITANS

CHURCH AT EPHESUS
BAD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	BAD POINT FOUND BY JESUS
1	ABANDONED FIRST LOVE WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST - CHURCH IS GETTING COLD
2	FALLEN FROM ORIGINAL HEIGHTS AND LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

CHURCH AT EPHESUS
CORRECTIVE ACTIONS STATED BY JESUS CHRIST TO GET BACK INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

ITEM	CORRECTIVE ACTIONS STATED BY JESUS
1	REMEMBER YOUR FIRST LOVE - WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST
2	REPENT OF YOUR SINS - ASK FORGIVENESS FROM GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST
3	CHANGE YOUR INNER WILL - CLEANSE YOUR HEART FROM UNRIGHTEOUSNESS
4	TURN BACK TO GOD
5	FOLLOW HIS CHOSEN PATH

CHURCH AT EPHESUS
PROMISES TO ALL REPENTANT BELIEVERS IN THIS CHURCH

ITEM	PROMISES IF YOU REPENT
1	GOD PROMISES THAT ALL REPENTANT BELIEVERS SHALL EAT OF THE TREE OF LIFE, WHICH IS IN HEAVEN. THESE PEOPLE ARE PROMISED ETERNAL LIFE FOREVER WITH JESUS CHRIST - IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD THE FATHER.

CHURCH AT EPHESUS
CONSEQUENCES TO THOSE WHO DO NOT REPENT OF THEIR SINS
IN THIS CHURCH

ITEM	CONSEQUENCES IF YOU DON'T REPENT OF YOUR SINS
1	JESUS WILL VISIT YOU PERSONALLY AND REMOVE THE LAMPSTAND FROM YOUR CHURCH. THE LIGHT WILL BE EXTINGUISHED. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL DEPART FROM THE CHURCH, AND ALL BELIEVERS WHO DO NOT REPENT SHALL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

In today's world, one would think that a church doing all these **GOOD DEEDS** would be acceptable to God, as it: Preaches and Teaches, Tests the Word of God, etc.

However, in the **EYES OF JESUS CHRIST**, who is given ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH, **that is not enough!**

The fact that this is a church, which has started to grow cold in its spiritual walk with the Lord, **is enough to exclude it from Heaven.**

However, we see that **God is MERCIFUL**. He does not leave the finding of the corrective actions or solutions to us. He gives us the ingredients to correct each individual believer in the Ephesian, or spiritually dying church. Jesus leaves the decision on whether to change or not up to each individual believer.

It is not the responsibility of the pastor, or the elders anymore, **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER IN THE CHURCH, TO REPENT AND TURN BACK TO GOD AND GOD'S CHOSEN PATHWAY, FOR THE INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN.**

Let us now move on to look at the Scriptures and the special message sent to the next church, the church of Smyrna. (Reference Rev. 2:8-11)

CHURCH AT SMYRNA
GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS
1	GOOD POINTS TO NOTE AND TO PUT INTO PRACTISE EVERY DAY
2	SUFFERED AFFLICTIONS, DISTRESS, TROUBLES, POVERTY.
3	WERE SLANDERED AND REVILED BY FALSE CHRISTIANS
4	PROCLAIMED GOD'S WORD UNDER ALL CONDITIONS - EVEN UNDER THE THREAT OF TORTURE AND DEATH BY THE LEGAL AUTHORITIES OF THAT DAY AND AGE.

CHURCH AT SMYRNA
PROMISES TO STEADFAST BELIEVERS WHO BELONG TO THIS CHURCH

ITEM	PROMISES TO STEADFAST BELIEVERS BY JESUS CHRIST
1	PROMISED THE CROWN OF LIFE IN HEAVEN AT THE TIME OF JUDGEMENT.
2	NO INJURY BY THE SECOND DEATH. GOD PROMISES

The church of Smyrna is a very special church. It has afflictions, distress, pressing troubles and poverty. It has been reviled and slandered against, by "so called Christians", who were really backsliders, again under the domination and power of Satan. The people had been tortured, thrown into prison and even killed, because they continued to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. All of these things did not cause their faith to begin to crumble, because it was securely anchored to the giant rock of salvation, Jesus Christ Himself.

As we study this church, we see that when we commit our lives to Jesus Christ, our PHYSICAL LIVES are no longer of any value, <u>if we try to keep them</u>. It only becomes of value to us <u>if we are prepared to offer it up as a sacrifice to Him</u>, not worrying about the physical pain or troubles, but being determined to preach God's Word wherever we go, despite the consequences.

The other important thing to notice about this church type is that, **in the eyes of Jesus Christ**, this church, and all the believers who are in it, they are acceptable to Him.

<u>It has no faults.</u> !!!!!

Conclusion: The church of Smyrna is an acceptable church type, in the eyes of God, but not all Christians have the faith, or the spiritual maturity, to be able to trust the Lord completely, in the times described above, that this church had to face.

But all of us - SHOULD BE ABLE TO PASS THE TEST OF THIS CHURCH TYPE, IF WE REALLY WANT TO GLORIFY GOD IN OUR DAILY LIVES.

So far, we have examined two church types and the score is:

- One church for Satan
- One church for God

Quite surprising so far, but let us continue the study and see if we can get a better score by the time we have studied all seven churches.

The next church is the church at Pergamum, (Reference Rev. 2:12- 17)

CHURCH AT PERGAMUM
GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST
1	LIVING IN SATAN'S CITY - BUT NOT PART OF SATAN'S ACTIVITIES.
2	HOLDING FAST TO CHRIST IN ALL SITUATIONS AND UNDER ALL CONDITIONS.
3	NOT DENYING THE FAITH - EVEN TO PREVENT TORTURE AND DEATH.
4	MARTYRS AMONG YOU - PEOPLE WHO ARE READY TO DIE FOR THE GOSPEL.

CHURCH AT PERGAMUM
BAD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	BAD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST
1	SOME TEACH THINGS OF THE WORLD (FALSE DOCTRINES).
2	SOME TEACH EATING FOOD SET BEFORE IDOLS.
3	SOME PRACTISING SEXUAL ACTS, WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO GOD'S WORD.
4	OTHERS ARE TEACHING WRONG DOCTRINES FROM THE COURTS OF THE NICOLAITANS - THE ONES WHO CORRUPT THE PEOPLE.

CHURCH AT PERGAMUM
CORRECTIVE ACTIONS SPECIFIED BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	CORRECTIVE ACTIONS DEMANDED BY JESUS CHRIST
1	REPENT - CHANGE YOUR WILL AND ATTITUDE TO GOD - OR JESUS CHRIST WILL COME AND FIGHT AGAINST YOU WITH THE SWORD OF TRUTH; AND YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THESE ATTACKS FROM GOD.

CHURCH AT PERGAMUM
PROMISES TO OVERCOMERS BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	PROMISES TO OVERCOMERS BY JESUS CHRIST
1	EAT HIDDEN FOOD (HEAVENLY MANNA)
2	GIVEN A WHITE STONE WITH A NEW NAME WRITTEN UPON IT.
3	NO-ONE UNDERSTANDS THE NAME - EXCEPT THOSE WHO RECEIVE IT.

CHURCH AT PERGAMUM
CONSEQUENCES FOR THOSE WHO DON'T REPENT

ITEM	CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL WHO DON'T ACT ON GOD'S WORD
1	JESUS SHALL DESTROY THE CHURCH WITH THE SWORD.
2	HE WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO STAND AND BE A BAD WITNESS FOR HIM.
3	ALL WHO ARE DESTROYED SHALL NO ENTER THE KINGDOM AT THE TIME OF THE ETERNAL JUDGEMENT OF ALL MANKIND.

The church type of Pergamum is unfortunately like many churches in the world today; they do not bring glory to the Lord Jesus Christ, in their present formats.

You may consider this a strong critical statement, but let us look at the facts. I will leave the Holy Spirit to prompt you in your decision, as to the correctness of my comments.

First of all within this church there were divisions, with some spiritually mature Christians trying to follow the Word of God; in addition to this, we had some of the newer believers (and some of the older ones) still clinging to traditions from the worldly situations, which is contrary to God's Word.

When we become "born again" believers, the Word says we become ***new creatures - old things (all of them) pass away***, [or they are "supposed"

to.] The church also had some people teaching doctrine, which was contrary to the Word of God, and trying to encourage the believers to eat food which had been offered to idols and/or other gods.

There were also in the midst of the congregation, people who were practising corruption. All of these things were wrong in the eyes of the Lord. (And it still is today)

The following things are important to note about this church type and the warning given by Jesus to the believers who belong to this church.

This warning should prompt some action from all of us.

Firstly, Jesus identifies that there are "good Christians" and "bad Christians" attending the same church.

We know that light and darkness cannot mix, nor can sweet water and salt water come out of the same well, at the same time.

Therefore, we would expect that the Lord would recommend some sort of separation process, (if we use worldly logic) to protect the "good Christians" whilst the Lord dealt with the "bad Christians" in the congregation.

However, that is not the case - that is not the way that Jesus deals with His followers.

Jesus said if the WHOLE CHURCH DID NOT REPENT ~ (the good and bad Christians alike) then Jesus would come and fight against them with the sword of His mouth, which we know is the Word of Truth.

Jesus considers that the 'good Christians' are just as guilty as the 'bad Christians', because the 'good Christians' failed to test the Word being preached, and when it was determined that it was incorrect teaching, they FAILED TO ACT AND HAVE THE TEACHING STOPPED!

Also the 'good Christians' **FAILED TO STOP THE CORRUPTION**, which was obviously apparent in the church congregation, or in the worldly situations around them.

This is a very important lesson for the Church body at large to realize today. In the eyes of Jesus Christ, you cannot be judged blameless if you become one of the **'silent majorities'**, who are not involved themselves, in the wrongdoing, **but DO NOTHING ABOUT HAVING IT STOPPED!**

Jesus considers inactivity, to not correct (take action against) something that is wrong, as a sin and **all are collectively guilty** (both the "good Christians" and the "bad Christians" alike) for allowing the sin to remain in existence.

To the churches in Thailand, this comment is very relevant. For over 175 years the churches have been building up barriers among the congregation, not removing false teaching and some traditional practises (from the worldly point of view) from within their congregations.

These stumbling blocks have prevented the Holy Spirit from being able to move in the midst of the COLLECTIVE CHURCH OF THAILAND, because of jealousy, pride, envy, competition, accusation of 'sheep stealing', corruption

in the land, etc., which has been allowed to remain by the Church at large, the Body of Christ.

I challenge the COLLECTIVE CHURCH OF THAILAND, to consider the judgement of Jesus Christ upon the church of Pergamum. He has stated that He shall come and fight against you (Jesus shall fight against you personally) with the sword of truth.

We all know that nobody has ever been able to defeat Jesus Christ in a spiritual battle. Even Satan, who is far greater than us, (in spiritual terms) was unable to win in his several and continual battles against Jesus.

We are told to quote the Word against Satan and he shall flee from us. This indicates how powerful the Word really is. If Jesus Christ uses that same Word against us, then we will surely be destroyed, not just the 'bad Christians' but also the 'good Christians' who were part of the silent majority who did not do anything to correct the situation and bring the churches into unity under the sovereign reign of Jesus Christ.

I will leave you to pray to Jesus Christ for forgiveness, and to ask the Holy Spirit to identify the things which needs to be corrected in the churches, so that the 'good Christians' are not destroyed along with the 'bad Christians'.

But now we have looked at three churches and the score is:

- 2 churches for Satan
- 1 church for God

Let us continue the study and see if the score can get any worse. All along you have thought that everything was going to be OK once you became a Christian. Well maybe now you will start to think being a Christian is not as easy as you first thought, if you start to use the eyes of Jesus Christ, as the judge of what is right and what is wrong. Let us now look carefully at the fourth church, the Church of Thyatira. (Reference Rev.2:18-29)

CHURCH AT THYATIRA
GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST
1	GOOD WORKS, LOVE, PATIENCE, ENDURANCE.
2	WORKS INCREASING DAY BY DAY.
3	TESTING THE TEACHINGS OF THE SAINTS
4	REJECTING THE FALSE TEACHINGS AND THE FALSE TEACHERS WHO GIVE IT.

CHURCH AT THYATIRA
BAD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	BAD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST
1	CHURCH IS DIVIDED BETWEEN FOLLOWERS OF TRUE AND FALSE TEACHING.
2	FALSE PROPHETESS TEACHING FALSE DOCTRINES.
3	ELDERS INACTIVE - DO NOT STOP FALSE TEACHING IN THE ASSEMBLY.
4	CHRISTIAN BABIES LED ASTRAY BY FALSE TEACHINGS OF THE FALSE PROPHETESS.
5	LACK OF CHECKING BY THE CHURCH LEADERS AND THE CONGREGATION.

CHURCH AT THYATIRA
CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TOLD BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	CORRECTIVE ACTIONS FOR THE SAINTS IN THIS CHURCH
1	REPENT OF PAST SINS - TURN BACK TO GOD FOR FORGIVENESS.
2	CHECK ALL DOCTRINES TAUGHT IN THE ASSEMBLY
3	REMOVE ALL FALSE PROPHETS FROM THE ASSEMBLY.
4	TEACH CORRECT DOCTRINE. IF IT CAN'T BE FOUND IN THE WORD - DON'T TEACH IT AT ALL!
5	PROTECT AND RECOVER THE "BABES IN CHRIST".
6	TEST ALL FUTURE WORDS GIVEN IN THE ASSEMBLY.
7	IF IT DOES NOT LINE UP WITH THE WORD OF GOD - THEN REJECT IT ALL.

CHURCH AT THYATIRA
PROMISES GIVEN BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	PROMISES FOR THOSE WHO OBEY IN THIS CHURCH
1	REWARD EACH AS YOU DESERVE - CHECK YOUR ATTITUDES ALSO.
2	NO ADDED TRIALS FOR THOSE WHO TESTED THE WORD AND REJECTED IT.
3	HOLD FAST TO WHAT YOU HAVE TILL I COME FOR MY CHOSEN PEOPLE.

CHURCH AT THYATIRA
CONSEQUENCES FOR THOSE WHO DON'T REPENT

ITEM	CONSEQUENCES FOR THOSE WHO DON'T REPENT
1	SOME SOULS TO BE LOST - TO CLEANSE THE BODY OF CHRIST.
2	WRONGDOERS GIVEN NO SECOND CHANCE - ALL ARE DESTROYED.
3	JESUS REMOVES THE UNHOLY BY ELIMINATION TO PROTECT THE HOLY FROM CONTAMINATION.

From the tables it is very easy to see that this church type has a problem, in that the church has allowed wrong teaching to continue in the church, **for**

some time, **without taking steps to remove it, and teach the correct Word from the Scriptures**.

Some of the believers have remembered Apostle Paul's warning to the Church at Ephesus and have carefully tested the teachings from the 'so~called' apostles and have found that the teachings did not line up with the Word of God and as a result, they have rejected the teachings and the men who teach them.

Unfortunately, the mature Christians, upon identifying the false teachers and the false prophetess, did not take the necessary steps to REMOVE THEM FROM THE CHURCH BODY, which is the correct action, as is stated in the Word.

The result was that some of the "babies in Christ" were led astray by the false teachers, and the Words of the false prophetess - lead towards destruction.

It appears from the account in the Book of Revelation, that the Lord must have sent many messages in prophecy to the church, identifying that there was false teaching taking place, to warn the church to take some positive action, to remove the people concerned, but alas the church elders, the church pastors and the mature Christians in the congregation did nothing.

The promises and consequences for this church are things we should be happy about (on the one hand) and sad about (on the other).

For the people who recognized the wrong doctrine in the church, and refused to follow it, Jesus promised that they would not receive additional trials in their earthly lives, but that they must hold fast to what they already have (their salvation and their faith) until the Lord comes back for His bride.

Jesus goes on to tell John that He has given the false prophetess plenty of time to change her ways, but that she has hardened her heart and refused to repent of her sins, so it is logical that she should be destroyed, given over to the desires of her heart, given over to Satan and eternal damnation. But what about the poor young babies that were led astray?

You would think that they should be now awakened to the truth of the wrong teachings and be given a chance to repent and turn back to Jesus Christ.

We see in this example, both the justice and the mercy of God at work. The young babies in Christ are given one last chance to repent and turn back to God.

All who fail to listen to this warning are then to be destroyed along with the false prophetess and her teachers.

All throughout the Bible, the Word clearly commands us to be the "HOLIEST PEOPLE ON EARTH". The judgement upon this church is that, like the bad hand, or bad eye, which was to be cut off, to save the remainder. (ref. Matt.18:8-9)

Jesus will "cut off the bad part of the church", to stop the pollution of the Word from spreading.

JESUS IS PREPARED TO ALLOW SOME SOULS TO BE LOST, TO KEEP THE BODY OF CHRIST PURE & HOLY & ACCEPTABLE TO HIM.

If we, as Christians, do not guard against the "watering down" or "polluting of the Word" in our assemblies, then the Lord will act to remove these offenders, by ELIMINATION.

So after studying four churches, the score is:

- 3 churches for Satan
- 1 church for God.

Let us move on to study the fifth church in the series and see what God has, as instructions for correction, in this specific church type.

CHURCH AT SARDIS
GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS
1	**STILL A FEW SOULS WHO HAVE NOT SOILED THEIR CLOTHES WITH SIN - WHO ARE STILL WORTHY OF KEEPING THEIR NAMES IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE.**
2	**THESE PEOPLE ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO ARE ACCEPTABLE TO CHRIST IN THIS CHURCH, TO KEEP THEIR SALVATION UNTIL ETERNITY.**

CHURCH AT SARDIS
BAD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	BAD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS
1	***JESUS WILL TREAT THIS CHURCH LIKE UNBELIEVERS!***
2	**HE WILL COME UPON THEM LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT AND STEAL AWAY THEIR SALVATION - THEIR PROMISED ETERNAL LIFE.**
3	**JESUS NO LONGER THINKS OF THIS AS A CHRISTIAN CHURCH ANYMORE!**

CHURCH AT SARDIS
CORRECTIVE ADVICE GIVEN BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	CORRECTION TO BECOME RESTORED TO CHRIST
1	**AROUSE YOURSELF FROM SPIRITUAL SLEEP.**
2	**KEEP SPIRITUALLY AWAKE.**
3	**STRENGTHEN AND LIVEN UP YOUR FAITH.**
4	**REVISE THE LESSONS YOU HAVE HEARD.**
5	**KEEP THEM IN YOUR MIND & IN YOUR HEART.**
6	**OBEY THEM AT ALL TIMES.**
7	**DO WORK WORTHY OF REPENTANCE.**
8	**START A RECORD OF WORKS WORTHY OF MENTION IN HEAVEN.**

CHURCH AT SARDIS PROMISES TO THE RIGHTEOUS ONES	
ITEM	**PROMISES BY JESUS CHRIST**
1	**PEOPLE WHO ARE JUDGED WORTHY BY JESUS CHRIST SHALL WEAR WHITE ROBES AND THEIR NAMES SHALL REMAIN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE.**
2	**THEIR NAMES SHALL BE PROCLAIMED OPENLY IN HEAVEN.**

CHURCH AT SARDIS CONSEQUENCES FOR THOSE WHO DON'T REPENT OF THEIR SINS	
ITEM	**CONSEQUENCES PROMISED BY JESUS CHRIST**
1	**JESUS CHRIST SHALL COME UPON THEM LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT.**
2	**HE SHALL REMOVE THEIR NAMES FROM THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE.**
3	**THEY SHALL LOOSE THEIR SALVATION AND GO INTO ETERNAL DAMNATION.**

In studying this church you may have been surprised to see that Jesus threatens to remove a person's name from the Lamb's Book of Life, because the person's clothes had become soiled, with his disobedience and his sinful nature.

Many Christians believe that **"ONCE SAVED IS ALWAYS SAVED". Well unfortunately that is NOT what the Scriptures says!**

In Rev. 3:4-5 Jesus makes the statement that there are still a few who have not soiled their clothes.... **and I will NOT erase their names from the Book of Life**.

This means that to qualify in keeping your name in the Book of Life, you must not soil your clothes, you must remain in accordance with the Word of God at all times, regularly examining your position before God and repent of any disobedience or misdoing's, so as to remain righteous before the Lord (at all times).

Another way of looking at this statement is as recorded in John 15:16. In this Scripture, Jesus says that you did not choose Him, He in fact chose you and ordained you, that you should go out and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain (PERFECT).

If your fruit does not remain, or goes bad, then you are no longer worthy to keep your name in the lamb's book of life.

In using this definition of worthiness, it is necessary to challenge every pastor, in every church, across every land.

In Matt.18:12, Jesus makes mention of the shepherd with 100 sheep in the flock, under his love, guidance and responsibility. These are the "fruit" that he is to "take care of", until Jesus returns for His bride.

We know today that from time to time, some of the "sheep" wander back into the world, following after their "previous shepherd", which is Satan.

In discussing this problem with pastors in many different countries, I have been given all sorts of EXCUSES, (but called statistics), that it is normal for approximately 10-20% of all believers to fall away, during the first year of their salvation.

They have said in affect that they are prepared to allow 20% of their fruit to drop to the ground, to rot and die. I would suggest that they ask themselves why Jesus Christ said that they are to leave the 99 sheep and go out and find AND BRING BACK THE SHEEP THAT WAS LOST. Why did Jesus Christ say that??

If Jesus Christ said that they should do it, then I would humbly suggest that some pastors better change their attitudes to their "retention factors", and instead of accepting an 80% retention factor, they better get back into the Word and go for the 100% that is required of them, so that their garments shall not be considered soiled and their names shall not be removed from the Lamb's Book of Life, like is written for the Church of SARDIS.

So after 5 churches, the score is:

- 4 churches for Satan
- 1 church for God

Many pastors, upon reading what I have just written, may try to brush this off as a wives tale, or just another mad author, trying to make a fast dollar.

This is not true, because all publications from CammBooks are free. I make no financial gain from writing this book at all. I write it to turn people back to the Scriptures and back to the Lord.

You may think whatever you like of me, but I challenge you to check the score. We have examined five churches so far, <u>only one of them has been acceptable to the Lord,</u> <u>without any correction</u>.

Remember, He (the Lamb of God) is the ultimate judge. You have to convince Him of your worthiness, not me.

Now let us move on to church number six, the church of Philadelphia and see what the Lord considers is good or bad in this church.

CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA
GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST
1	**WORKS ARE ACCEPTABLE**
2	**POWER USED WISELY.**
3	**TEST ALL TEACHINGS**
4	**THE CHURCH HAS NOT RENOUNCED THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST.**
5	**SHOWN "AGAPE LOVE" IN ALL SITUATIONS, EVEN DURING TRIAL AND TRIBULATIONS.**
6	**THE CHURCH IS ACCEPTABLE TO GOD.**

CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA
PROMISES GIVEN BY JESUS CHRIST FOR THIS CHURCH

ITEM	PROMISES GIVEN FOR THIS CHURCH BY JESUS CHRIST
1	JESUS PLACES AN OPEN DOOR IN FRONT OF THIS CHURCH, WHICH CANNOT BE CLOSED BY SATAN OR ANY OF HIS AGENTS.
2	SAINTS KEPT FROM THE TRIALS WHICH WILL COME AT THE" END-TIME".
3	HOLD FAST TO THEIR TREASURES, THE CROWN OF ETERNAL LIFE.
4	MADE TO BE A PILLAR IN THE HEAVENLY CITY WITH A NEW NAME.

We have some good news, when studying the Church of Philadelphia, for it is clear that in the eyes of God, this church type is acceptable to Him: shout **HALLELUJAH**!

In the eyes of God - not man, the work of this church is deemed to be acceptable. Even though the church had little power, it has used it wisely to glorify the Lord.

The church was very conscious that false teachings could creep into The Body of Christ and so they tested EVERY TEACHING AND EVERY DOCTRINE, to ensure that it was in accordance with the Scriptures.

Neither the church as a whole, nor the individual believers, renounced or denied the Lord's name at any time. The Lord emphasizes that this church ENDURED PATIENTLY their trials and hardships, according to the lessons taught them by Jesus and the Apostles.

This means they endured their trials and tribulations with love for one another, both for the believers and for the unbelievers alike. They were not complainers, gossipers, liars, or people who caused division in the churches, etc., <u>but at all times, by their words and their actions, they showed and manifested the agape love, which is the true sign of a mature Christian</u>.

The promise given by the Lord for this church is worthy of note. They must make us examine our own thinking and attitudes.

- First of all Jesus promises that in front of this church God has placed a door and this door is open forever.
- No-one on earth can shut the door before this church.
- Secondly, all of the false teachers, which have been identified in the other churches so far, will be required to bow down at the feet of the saints of the church of Philadelphia and acknowledge that Jesus has loved these saints.
- Thirdly, the saints of this church are told they will not suffer the hour of testing, which is to come upon the world, indicating that the saints of the church of Philadelphia shall be guaranteed a place in the rapture when Jesus comes back for His children.

As encouragement, Jesus tells the saints of this church to HOLD FAST TO THE TREASURE THAT THEY HAVE, so no-one can rob them of their crown (which by right, already belongs to them).

For those people who do hold fast, they shall have written on them, the name of God, (for their protection), become the pillars in the new city and receive the new name of Jesus Christ.

Many Christians do not realize that after Jesus Christ comes back at the rapture, He will rule for 1,000 years and will be given a new name, as will all His worthy subjects. Even though this church did not have any faults, at the time the Scriptures were written, there is still a warning given to all the believers in this congregation.

The individual believers in this church could lose their crowns in Heaven, if they become complacent and ceased to hold fast to the treasures they have acquired already in Heaven.

This is a warning that ALL BELIEVERS SHOULD NOT TAKE LIGHTLY. If you do not keep your fruit remaining, that is, the fruit of your repentance, your fruit of salvation, your fruits of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which is given severally, as the Lord wills, (not man) then you will not be deemed acceptable, in the eyes of God, on the day of judgement and shall have to go through the **Baptism of Fire**, fire of purification, to have all the chaff burned off your spiritual body, so the remainder can be turned into the jewels by purging through the fire.

Christians therefore have to review their spiritual positions on a regular basis, to ensure that in accordance with Hebrews 6:1-3, we are continually maturing as Christians, not staying at the same level of spiritual growth, or understanding.

In reviewing the score, we now have:

- 2 churches for God
- 4 churches for Satan

This means that in the six churches we have examined so far, 60% of the church types are deemed not to be acceptable to God in the form He observed them.

To become acceptable, they all had to repent of their sins and accept the corrective actions identified in the Scriptures for each of them.

Let us examine the final church, the church of Laodicea and see how this church was rated by the Lord.

CHURCH AT LAODICEA
GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST IN THIS CHURCH
1	***NO GOOD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST IN THIS CHURCH!***

CHURCH AT LAODICEA
BAD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST

ITEM	BAD POINTS FOUND BY JESUS CHRIST IN THIS CHURCH
1	NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE LORD, BECAUSE IT IS A SPIRITUAL CHURCH WHICH IS NOT "ON-FIRE" FOR THE LORD.
2	THEY ARE NOT HOT OR COLD - JUST LUKEWARM. THIS IS A SPIRITUAL STATE THAT THE LORD WILL NOT ACCEPT.
3	THE CHURCH COVETS THE WEALTH OF THE WORLD, INSTEAD OF THE WEALTH OF SPIRITUAL THINGS.
4	THIS CHURCH IS UNDER THE FALSE ILLUSION THAT IT IS ACCEPTABLE - BUT UNFORTUNATELY IT IS NOT.

CHURCH AT LAODICEA
CORRECTIVE ACTIONS FROM JESUS CHRIST FORTHE LAODICEANS

ITEM	ALTERNATIVES FOR THE LAODICEAN CHURCH
1	UNLESS THEY REPENT THEY SHALL BE REJECTED BY JESUS AS UNWORTHY.
2	IF THEY REPENT, THEY SHALL SIT BESIDE JESUS IN HEAVEN.
3	THESE ARE THE ONLY TWO CHOICES GIVEN TO THIS CHURCH.
4	IT IS A "TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT" OPTION. JESUS HAS JUDGED THEM ALREADY - THEY JUST HAVE TO DECIDE ON WHICH PLACE THEY WISH TO BE AFTER JUDGEMENT TIME TAKE PLACE IN HEAVEN.

CHURCH AT LAODICEA
PROMISES FROM JESUS CHRIST FOR THE LAODICEANS

ITEM	PROMISES FOR THE LAODICEAN CHURCH
1	DRAMATICALLY CHANGE YOUR SPIRITUAL WAYS & WAKE UP FOR CHRIST.
2	PROVIDE TREASURES TRIED BY TEMPTATIONS - TREASURES WORTHY IN HEAVEN.
3	WALK IN THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS TO RECEIVE WHITE ROBES.
4	JESUS CHASTENS YOU AND CORRECTS YOU BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU AND DOES NOT WANT ANY TO PERISH - SO REPENT BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

The church of Laodicea is like many churches, which exist today in the developed world.

It is a church, which has a flashy impressive modern building, with air conditioning, modern sophisticated electronic sound and music systems, comfortable upholstered seats, lush carpets on the floor, overhead projectors, video screens and all the other things which go with a very affluent society.

The church pastor is provided with a large house, compliments of the church, plus an expensive car and a high salary. He is a member of some of the best society clubs around town - and in some cases, he has some businesses on the side, (just as insurance, or to help put the children through college.)

The church appears to be very rich (and in fact in a worldly sense, it is) but it is spiritually dying!

It resembles a selective society club, where membership is limited to the very select few, who earn high salaries, or who are relatives of someone who does.

The church gives a token offering to the poor and a token offering to the mission work of the church, but the attitude is one of obligation - not because of the genuine love of God.

- No-one can remember when the pastor last prayed for anyone to be healed (and a healing actually occurred).
- No-one can remember when the last person made a genuine commitment to serve the Lord with **ALL of his life and his money and his talents**.

Even if they could, they would remark that *"Johnny" always took his religion too seriously anyway*. ***This is a church in definite spiritual decline.*** It is a church that Jesus no longer considers to be CHRISTIAN by name, as it does not glorify Christ in any of its activities. Jesus Christ is very harsh in His judgement on this church, but for very good reason.

Jesus clearly tells John that He will spit this church out of His mouth if it remains in its present state, and with its present attitudes.

But, we know that God is merciful, God is just and God is never changing, He is always compassionate in His ways. Jesus Christ gives this church the opportunity to repent, to change their ways and once again come back to Him, like the prodigal son.

In Rev. 3:20, we have the famous Scripture, where Jesus says He is waiting just outside the door to our hearts, gently knocking and waiting for us to open the door, so He can have fresh and continual communion with us. This clearly shows the glory of God.

Despite the fact that Jesus wishes to spit this church out of His mouth, He will not do so without giving every individual believer inside the church an opportunity to once again be restored to the fellowship of Jesus Christ.

What a great and mighty God we have HALLELUIAH!

So, in the church of Laodicea, we have a clear warning to all financially secure churches, who consider the appearances of their churches and the way they dress up their choir personnel, more important than the basic teachings of Acts 1:8, to spread the good news to all nations of the earth.

Any church which does not have an outreach programme in their own city, their own country, and who do not send mission funds to assist in the spreading of the gospel, in other countries, either by financial support to their own missionaries, or to other foreign missionaries, are (in my view) guilty, in God's eyes, of falling into the category of the Laodicean church.

Any church which allows denominational rulings to take precedence over the Word of God (all the Word of God, all of the Bible) is also guilty of belonging to this category.

Let us now try to draw some conclusions:

We have examined seven churches and we arrived at the startlingly score of:

- 2 churches for God
- 5 churches for Satan

This is not what many Christians would have expected when they commenced this chapter, but the Word tells the truth of the situation, as Jesus, not man, judged those churches at that time. In the seven churches we have studied, the message to the angel of each of the seven churches always finishes with the words:

"He who can hear, let him listen to and heed what the Spirit (Holy Spirit) says to the assemblies (the churches).

This is the New Testament equivalent, to the Old Testament command, which was given by God to each of the prophets, when giving them a message to deliver to the people of Israel. **"Thus saith the Lord God of Israel"……..**

This message for the seven church types is a direct message to us from the Lord and we must obey it, in the same way that we obey Acts 2:38-39, when we repent of our sins, are baptized in water and receive the Holy Spirit power into our lives.

For those churches which at present do not believe that the Holy Spirit is for this day and age, I feel sorry, because they will therefore not heed the warnings of the book of Revelation, and as such, their saints may not fall into a category which is recognized (in God's eyes) as acceptable to Him, in the last days.

The above seven church types were recognized as being in existence at the time, some 60 years after the ascension of Jesus Christ into Heaven.

But this warning is given to us, so that we, as individual churches today, would not fall into some of the pitfalls and traps those early churches did.

Therefore we as individual churches, must examine ourselves in the light of the points identified for all the previous churches and identify (TRUTHFULLY) where we, as individual churches stand.

The following table is recommended as a checklist, to identify where your individual church stands, in relation to the points identified as being, for or against, each of the individual seven church types studied.

If you identify any points which God has previously identified as being not acceptable, then the obvious solution is also to identify GOD'S REMEDY FOR ITS CORRECTION, so that the church can again be found acceptable in God's sight.

After completing the checklist table for the church, (collectively) then each individual Christian should then examine the SAME LIST FOR HIS OWN SPIRITUAL SITUATION and follow THE SAME SET OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS.

In concluding this study I trust that every person has been challenged to have a careful look at their particular church, their teachings and organization and in addition reflect on their own personal positions and relationships firstly to the Lord and then to other members of the Body of Christ.

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SPIRITUAL
CHECK
LIST

for

INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES
and
INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS

***

ITEM	YOUR CHURCH [YES/NO]	YOU AS A CHRISTIAN [YES/NO]
Is Jesus the centre of all attention in your church?		
Is your church involved with activities which help people of different ethnic backgrounds all over the world?		
Does your church patiently endure under unrighteous attacks, both from within and/or outside the church body?		
Does your church tolerate wicked men inside or outside the church body?		
Does your church test the teachings and prophecies, in accordance with the Word and expel the false teachers and prophets when you find their teaching does not line up with the Word of God?		
Does your church proclaim Christ and Christian principles in all situations?		
Does your church hate corruption and do they do anything about it?		
Has your church left, lost, and abandoned their first love, which is Jesus Christ?		
Does your church react correctly when placed under physical and/or political pressure from inside or outside the church body?		
Is your church prepared to proclaim Jesus Christ in the face of imprisonment or even death?		
Does your church have a good record of works, produced by and through trials and strife and achieved them through the use of faith in Jesus Christ?		
Can you see: Love, faith, service, patient endurance all in operation in your church assembly?		
Does the works, through faith, increase day by day, in your church body?		
Are false teachers allowed to continue to operate in your church, in your presence, without corrective action?		
Does your church have groups, or an individual who likes to gossip about other people?		
Is the Holy Spirit Gift of Discernment operating in your church?		
Are all the Holy Spirit gifts as per 1 COR. Chapter 12, operating in your church on a regular basis?		
Are the 9 fruit flavours of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as per GAL 5:22 operating in your church regularly?		
Does your church encourage and practise the operation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in accordance with 1. COR. Chapter 14?		
Does you church have elders & deacons appointed as per the book of Titus?		
Does the elders control and govern the church, or is it controlled by the pastor, as a dictator?		
If your church has "daughter" churches, do they have elders and deacons, and are they in complete control of their own daughter church, or must they get approval from the "mother" church for everything they want to do?		
Is there a bottle of oil in your church, so that an elder can anoint the sick and pray for their complete healing, as per James 5:14?		
Does your church have altar calls for salvation? How often?		

When was the last time that someone accepted Jesus Christ in your church?		
Does your church call for people to receive the Holy Spirit into their lives?		
How often does this happen?		
Does your church encourage the believers to be baptized by total immersion in water? How often do these baptismal services take place?		
Does you church emphasize that your church should be Holy?		
Is your church Holy?		
Does your church take positive steps to make sure that it remains Holy all the time?		
Does your church preach that your fruit must remain, as per the words in John 15:16?		
What action does your church take if one believer goes out of the church? Do you follow the instructions of Jesus, as stated in MATTHEW 18:12-14?		
If the answer to the above is NO! Do you put it down to statistics of this day and age - just a sign of the times?		
What percentage of people who accepted salvation in your church, during the last 2 year period, are still practising Christians today? (Either in your church or elsewhere)?		
As an individual church, has there been someone accept the salvation of Jesus Christ in your church during the last month?		
How often does this happen?		
As a believer, have you ever witnessed or led a person to accept the Lord as their personal Saviour?		
Are they (your fruit) still strong practising Christians today?		
Is your church spiritually alive and awake?		
Does your church continually strengthen and invigorate your faith into action?		
Does your church give balanced lessons and teachings in all areas of the Scriptures, or does it concentrate on one area only, like evangelism, but not give proper nurture food for all new believers, to make them into DISCIPLES?		
Is your church a growing one, or is it one that just has a constant stream of changing faces, but with approximately the same number of people in the congregation each week?		
Does your church (and church elders) practise what they preach? Or are they hearers of the Word only?		
Has your church had a series of studies on the 7 churches in Revelation, before you read this teaching message?		
Did they change anything in the church?		
How often does this happen?		
Does your church consider the church buildings more important than spending money on the mission program and spreading of God's Word throughout the earth?		
Does your church, chasten, discipline, or correct its members, when they go astray from the Word of God?		
How do they do this? As per what series of Scriptures?		
Does your church allow a marriage between a believer & a non-believer to take place on its premises?		

Does your church allow a “marriage” between “same sex couples”?		
Does your church have a fund for widows, to help those who are in distress, or in need in your congregation?		
How does your church select their pastor or shepherd?		
Do you place more emphasis on the person's length of service, or educational skill and qualifications, or on the "fruit" of his/her ministry?		
Does your church participate with other churches in your town/city/region, to lift up the name of Jesus Christ higher than any other name, or do you think they are in competition with you and that they may steal your sheep? Don't all the sheep belong to Jesus Christ, not the individual churches?		

As you are by now aware, it is only two of the churches which are acceptable "in God's eyes", to be able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, in their present states.

In undertaking the Spiritual Checklist shown above, you can do it as carefully (or as carelessly) as you choose.

The point you must realize is that you do not have to convince me how good your individual church is, you have to convince yourself.

Finally, God Almighty already knows the score, for both your church, and for you, as an individual Christian, so don't try to fool Him, it won't work!

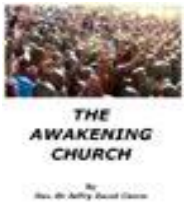
If you find that you did not get a perfect score, then you need to do something about it, as only those with "perfect scores" in God's eyes will be able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

APPENDIX

PILLAR OF FIRE IN THE CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA

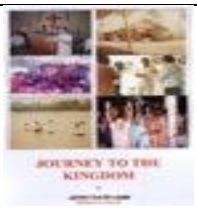
This is an actual filmed documentary event which took place in the outback of Australia near Alice Springs. This is like what is recorded in the book of Exodus when the Jewish nation~~ (Israel) were told to follow the cloud by day and the column of fire by night.
https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Pillar+of+Fire+-+Australia&mkt=en-au&httpsmsn=1&refig=d5f81aceb34140fcf6718a787808ec18&sp=-1&ghc=1&pq=undefined&sc=0-20&qs=n&sk=&cvid=d5f81aceb34140fcf6718a787808ec18&ru=%2fsearch%3fq%3dPillar%2bof%2bFire%2b-%2bAustralia%26form%3dEDNTHN%26mkt%3den-au%26httpsmsn%3d1%26refig%3dd5f81aceb34140fcf6718a787808ec18%26sp%3d-1%26ghc%3d1%26pq%3dundefined%26sc%3d0-20%26qs%3dn%26sk%3d%26cvid%3dd5f81aceb34140fcf6718a787808ec18&view=detail&mmscn=vwrc&mid=1444051F52C91098DEDE1444051F52C91098DEDE&FORM=WRVORC

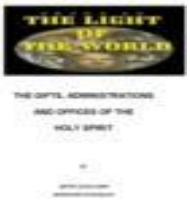
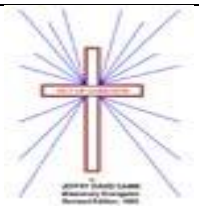
LIST OF BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR[9]

 On Wings of Angels	A collection of 52 of my published poems
 On God's Journey	A series of teaching messages that I have prepared along the way, in the last 50+ years as a missionary, as I continue on God's Journey – including a fully ACOM accredited Certificate IV Course on Practical Ministry & Theology, which people anywhere in the world can learn for free. If they want to be accredited for the subjects they complete, then complete the assignments and forward them to me, If they complete all the subjects in a 4 calendar year period then they will receive a Certificate IV in Practical Ministry and Theology.
 The Awakening Church	**Chapter Headings** One: Let us stop "Doing Church" and let's start "Becoming the Church" Two: The importance of Salvation Three: The Importance of Baptism Four: Love the Mother of Your Children Five: What Makes a Good Leader? Six: God's Army on the March Seven: The End-time Church

[9] **All are available at www.facebook.com/cammbooks free of charge, (or for a small donation, to keep this website up and running), so that people from developing nations can get access to these gospel messages. Send a request email to nlmcs00@gmail.com.**

 What is the Vision for Australia in 2050?	**The Holy Scriptures (and history) tells us "where there is no vision, the people perish". The Holy Scriptures also tell us "righteousness exalts a nation".** Excellence in a Nation requires righteous and truthful politicians, with a vision for a better future, for every citizen who lives in that Nation, irrespective of their ethnicity, race, colour, religious or political beliefs.
 The Seven Pillars of Christianity	**First Pillar** The Divine Word of God **Second Pillar** The Old Covenant - Blood sacrifices New Covenant - The Blood of Jesus Christ **Third Pillar** Holy Spirit Revelations **Fourth Pillar** Divine Leadership Order Unity in the Body **Fifth Pillar** Eternal Fellowship with Jesus Christ **Sixth Pillar** **Seventh Pillar**
 Living in the Secret Kingdom	Jesus said that the Kingdom of God had come, now in the present age – not sometime later in the future, but right here, right now, today! He also indicated that Satan was defeated and that the Kingdom of God was right here now on earth. He was going to His Father in heaven, but we, as born again believers, were to be the stewards of that kingdom until Jesus Christ returns to rule and reign in His kingdom here on earth for one thousand years. So the challenge as you read this book is this. Which kingdom do you give your allegiance to? Is it the kingdom of darkness – or the kingdom of light?
 On the Potter's Wheel	On the Potter's Wheel is an autobiography about my life, growing up here in the Coffs Harbour district, my life before my car accident which left me a paraplegic, my miraculous recovery, my life as an engineer, working as an international consultant for governments and corporations in 16 countries and finally my missionary work in more than 40 countries during the last 20 years.

 On the Potter's Wheel – Again!	This is a continuation of the autobiography (On the Potter's Wheel) which has tracked my life from the time of birth in 1943 until 1989 when Rani and I were ready to go back to Pakistan to commence consultancy work for the Pakistan Government. We look at several momentous historical events and how they affected our lives; as well as medical and other emergencies; which took place over that time, including terrorist attacks like September 11 and at the Sydney Olympics.
 The Coastal Pioneers	On the 16th March 1606, the Dufkyen sailed down the eastern coast of Queensland, (Australia) mapping more than 300 nautical miles of the coastline; the first "European ship recorded to do so, more than 150 years before Captain James Cook in his Endeavour expedition. 2006 marked the 400th anniversary of this discovery and a replica ship was made to re-enact the voyage. So began the research of the early discovery of the Great Land in the South, leading to the discovery of several books on this subject (which I was definitely not taught about in school, with the revelation that even the Greeks explorers had a name for the great land in the south, as early as 330 BC, namely **"AUSIO".** This knowledge lead me back even further to find out that there is evidence that the Egyptians were here in Australia, with even remains of pyramids and many pictures telling of their exploits. But read on and find out for yourselves.
 Journey to the Kingdom	Journey to the Kingdom is a series of teaching messages that I have compiled from more than the 30 years of ministry in many countries. I am sure some of these messages shall cause you to go back to the scriptures to look at them once again.

 The Gifts, Administrations and Offices of the Holy Spirit	A series of teachings about the Holy Spirit, each of the Holy Spirit Gifts, how they operated in the Old Testament, the life of Jesus Christ and the Apostles, and how they should operate in the church believers today. (Also Translated into Thai and German languages.)
 In Search of the Truth	All religions teach us the difference between right and wrong and that we are all searching for a closer relationship with our creator. This book looks at the major religions: Judaism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity, showing how each individual religion points to the truth about God's Word for all who truly seek Him. In this book are scriptures from the Quran, lined up beside scriptures from the Bible, to show how Muslims can be lead to the truth about who Jesus Christ really is.
 Out of Darkness	When you are a non-believer you are walking in darkness, but when you make a commitment to follow Jesus Christ you are taken "out of darkness" into His glorious light. A series of teachings encouraging people to make the change.
 Showers of Blessings	When Elijah walked into the throne room of King Ahab, the whole proceedings came to a halt awaiting the words of the Prophet from God Almighty. Nowadays nobody in Government wants to hear any words from the Lord, in fact they even try to remove anything dealing with religion from their statutes. This book deals with the blessings that God has promised to shower upon any person, or nation, which follows His laws and His commandments.

 The Roots of Our Beliefs	This book draws us back to our roots in the Torah and the Talmud, and makes us remember that we are grafted into the tree of life – but the tree has not been cut down. As a result, it reminds us of the promises God made to the Jews and that these promises are still valid today.
 Getting Closer to God – The Prayer Series	A series of teachings which encourages people to get involved in serious prayer, by showing the strengths and weaknesses of believers in prayer.
 Thy Word is Truth	After 11th September 2001, the terrorist attacks in the USA and later in Bali, this book reminds us that God is still in control and that vengeance is His – not ours, to deal out as we think fit. As Christians we are reminded that God tells us to "love one another" – ***<u>even our enemies.</u>***

THE PEARLY GATES (A DRAMA)

Scene : At the pearly gates, at the entrance to heaven, where recent arrivals are checked out by St. Peter, to see if their names are in the "Lamb's Book of Life". Peter sends those whose names are missing out of God's presence, those whose names appear are then allowed into the "check-in area, pending final approval by the Lord Himself.

Props**:** A set of Entrance Gates, a desk, a large book, a "check-in" gate and "reject gate"

Actors **:**

The "Voice of God"**:**	(Heard off-stage) actor not seen.
Jesus**:**	The only one worthy to open the Book
Peter**:**	Guard of the Pearly Gates & Keeper of the Holy Book
The Angel Helper**:**	Who brings updates to be added to the Book, or deleted from the Book?
The motorbike rider**:**	Recently arrived, as a result of a vehicle accident. – "There by accident"
The religious man**:**	Who demands to be let in!
The humble man**:**	Who claims to be unworthy to be let in.

The widowed lady**:** Who suffered for the Lord here on earth.
The agnostic**:** Who does not even believe that Heaven exists.
The narrator**:** Who will recount the story & challenge the congregation, or readers.

Scene 1:

Peter	Sitting at his desk, carefully polishing the Large Book
Enter the **Angel Helper**:	**"Peter, here is an updated list, just off the throne-room computer, the latest group of believers. It will be great to see all these new faces, coming up here to worship and praise with us, when we are off-duty".**
Peter	**"Yes, Praise the Lord. It is always great to know that God's work on earth is still going on – that people are spreading the Good News in all sorts of places." Here, give me the list, so I can sort it and add it to the Book". Pause and then: *"Are there any deletions this time"?***
Angel Helper	"No! And thank God for that! It is always so sad when we have to rub out a name from the Lamb's Book of Life". I still don't understand why Jesus put that verse in the Holy Scriptures."
Peter	"Don't worry about it – just do your duty, for the Lord knows everything and He must have very good reasons for putting this verse in the Scriptures."
Enter the **Motorbike Rider:**	He comes in looking for something, appearing very dazed and uncertain of himself
Peter	"Can I help you"?
Motorbike Rider:	"Have you seen me bike? I–I was riding down the highway, going 200 Km an hour, then the next thing I remember is being here. Where am I anyway"?
Peter	"You are at the gates of separation. Don't you remember skidding off the road and hitting that big tree"?
Motorbike Rider	"Vaguely – but if I am here, does that mean I am dead? I don't want to be dead yet – I've too many things to finish for the Lord – you know, being in the God Squad and all that – mixing with the hard hats – spreading love and hope to all the bikies. Can't I go back and finish the job I started"?
Peter	"It is not my decision whether you go or stay; that has already been decided. Remember, Jesus said He goes ahead to prepare a place for us. Let us look in the Book to see if you are registered to stay here and whether a room has been set aside for you".
	Peter & the Motorbike Rider look in the pages of the book to see if they can find his name.

Peter	**"**Are yes – there it is. You can go into the reception area to check-in".
	Motor Bike Rider: ***Goes off through the door marked "Reception"***
Narrator	**"**These four are so busy listening and discussing their views that they have failed to recognise where they are."
	Enter the "religious man", the "humble man", the "widow" and the "agnostic" arguing amongst themselves.
Religious Man, addressing the others	"I don't care what you say, I <u>know</u> God exists! How do you explain the life in a grain of wheat? Can you show me how – with all the technology we have today, how to put life into a grain of wheat? Can you do it? Do you know of any scientist who can do it? No! See that explains it – God exists! He is the only one who can create things from nothing. That's why I pray to Him each day. He is the creator and He is life".
Agnostic	"Your statement does make me think. No! I don't know anybody who can put life into a grain of wheat – or who can put life inside of each baby before it is born. I will agree that maybe there is a superior force, more powerful than I understand – but that does not give you the right to tell me that there is a place called Heaven – that's just too much – that's just a fairy story. Ha! I don't believe it."
Humble Man	"I must tell you that I did not believe in heaven either, some time ago, but I have seen God work miracles in people's lives, so much so that I had to find out more about who God was, what was His purpose, and why He sent Jesus down to the earth, to save worthless people like me. I was so terrible, I used to go to the pub, get drunk, come home and beat the wife and kids, for almost any reason at all. Then I had a confrontation with Jesus Christ. He asked me why I was doing this terrible thing. Didn't I love my wife and children? Didn't I care for them? Didn't I want the children to grow loving and respecting their father? It is a terrible thing when somebody reaches down inside of you and takes hold of your soul and puts it out in front of you – it's like looking in a spiritual mirror. I didn't like what I saw – but Jesus helped my change my life, so that now I love my wife and my children. Why? Because I found out that even though I was this terrible person – Jesus still loved me enough to die for me – even in my sins – even in this state that I was in. ♦ He replaced all my anger with His love. I don't need to go down to the pub and get drunk every night. ♦ I don't have to belt up my wife and kids – in fact I love

	them very much, and they have a different response to me also. ♦ You see, God, in Jesus Christ, changed my life."
Agnostic (*looking around)*	"Hey you guys! Do any of you know where we are? When I booked in at the travel agents to go on a mystery tour, I didn't think I would end up in a spooky place like this – where are we? It's spooky – but it's kind of peaceful as well, don't you think"?
	All mutter in agreement.
Widow	**"**I seem to remember, when I was a little girl in Sunday school being shown a picture of a place that looked just like this. It was called heaven's gateway – the place where Jesus came through to be with His Father. A place where all believers will pass; to spend eternity in heaven; but only if they have been obedient and have done the Father's will."
Religious Man	**"**No! I don't agree with that statement – everybody shall be saved! Everybody shall go to Heaven! Remember the Scripture: All that call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Anyway, if this is heaven – let's settle this once and for all – let us ask the gatekeeper over there – He should know. (He walks towards Peter & the Helper Angel) Excuse me, can you help us? Is this Heaven?
Peter	*"No! This is not Heaven. This is the place of separation. This is the place where we check if people have their names registered in the Lamb's Book of Life. This is the place where we separate the sheep from the goats – the believers from the unbelievers".*
Agnostic	"What happens if your name is missing from the book? Where do you go from here"???
Peter	**"**You are sent through the gate marked **"rejected" –** never to be in the presence of God for eternity. Go now out of our presence". **Agnostic starts to walk away through the "Rejected" gate.**
Religious Man	**"**See! I told you Heaven existed – but you would not believe me! See! You get what you deserve!! To live in hell forever"!!! ♦ Me! I am a religious man. I go to church every Sunday. ♦ I have never missed a meeting in the last 20 years. ♦ I am on several church committees.

	♦ I spend many hours doing work for the church, and ♦ I give lots of money to charities. ♦ I know that My Name will be in the Book
But then we hear God's Voice:	*"Alas, it's plain to see that for those 20 years you have been sitting in the pews, have all been wasted. Many times My word has been presented to you; many times you have heard the Words of My Son spoken in your presence**:** "Enter through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and spacious and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who are entering it. But the gate is narrow, contracted by pressure – and the way is straightened and compressed that leads to life, and few are they who find it. Beware of false prophets, who come to you dressed as sheep, but inside they are devouring wolves. You will fully recognise them by their fruits. Do people pick grapes from a thorn bush, or figs from thistles? Even so, every healthy tree bears good fruit – worthy of admiration: but the sickly tree bears bad and worthless fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad worthless fruit; nor can a bad diseased tree bear excellent fruit – worthy of admiration. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire. Therefore you will know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to Me. Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of MY Father Who is in Heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, and driven out demons in Your name, and done mighty works in Your name? <u>And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you: depart from Me: you who act wickedly – disregarding My commands"</u>*
Peter	**Closes the Book!** *"The time is coming soon now, when we will have to do the testing and final checking of each life. Move these people into the check-in area."*
Narrator	**"**There are many people who think that they can plan their lives and decide when, where, and how, they are to meet their maker. But rest assured, whether we like it or not, each of us will be required to give an account of ourselves before the Father on judgement day". So now the questions to each one of us listening and watching today; ➢ Which one of these people in this drama are you? ➢ Are you sure that Jesus will open His arms and welcome you into His presence? ➢ Is your life today all of what it should be? ➢ Have you been obedient to the Words of the Father? ➢ Have you been doing His will all of your life?

	If not, (today) we give you the opportunity to get your life right, and in order with God. Jesus told us that we are able to bring all our faults, hurts and failures to Him – to leave them at the cross, where His blood will cover them over and they will be remembered in Heaven no more. Today is a time of decision for everyone. Committed Christians, nominal believers, and unbelievers alike – all of us have decisions to make today. I pray that each one will get down on their knees and pray for the Holy Spirit to awaken within them the fire of renewal and revival. I pray for new dynamic power; for new spiritual energy to flow for the first time or once again through our veins. To get inspired for the Lord and for the promises that He has made available to us all. Let us pray together; *Heavenly Father, in watching this drama, you have brought me to the realisation that I am not perfect in your sight, and that you will not want me in your heaven, in the present state of my spiritual life.* *I humbly ask that you forgive me of my sins and my unrighteousness and help me to become the person you have planned for me to be. I ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, Amen.*